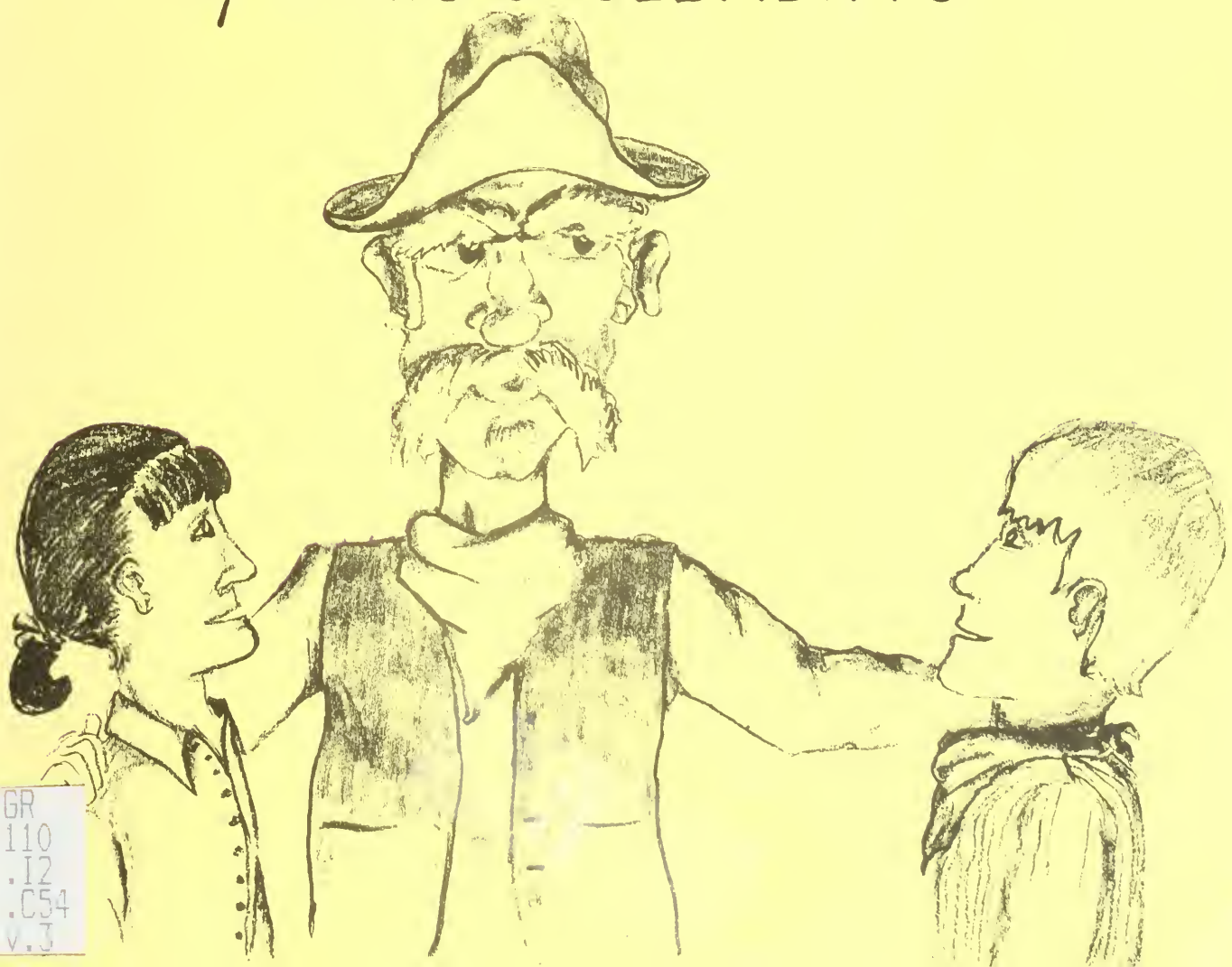
CAMPFIRE TALES

OF EASTERN IDAHO

VOLUME III

by LOUIS J. CLEMENTS



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CAMPFIRE TALES OF EASTERN IDAHO

VOLUME III

By

Louis J. Clements

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INTRODUCTION

Gathering information about Idaho's past is one of the most enjoyable activities available to a historian. Then making the information available to the public completes the job.

The Teton Flood of 1976 ruined all of the back issues of the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society Quarterly and the Snake River Echoes from Volume 1 # 1 through Volume 5 # 2. These back issues were to be made available to patrons through the years so they could have a complete set of this historical information. After the flood, copies of the originals have been made for interested people.

This Volume 3 of Campfire Tales of Eastern Idaho contains some of the stories that were previously printed in those first five volumes of Idaho history. Listed below are the major contributors of those stories. Not enough can be said about the work and sacrifice of time and expense incurred by these people in their pursuit of unraveling these histories. Our thanks go to them for their interest in our state and the preserving of its heritage.

Ethel Mecham Ackerman
Doris Anderson
Alice Andrew
Kendall Lee Ballard
Linden B. Bateman
J. Edgar Birch
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Marie A. Karren Egbert
Edna Ellsworth
Rosemary E. Franz
Julie Gay Gerard
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Henry Groom
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O. K. Meservey
Rebecca Brown Mitchell
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Thomas Murphy
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Beverly Price
Mildred Staley
Gardenia C. Summers
J. P. Wilde
DeWayne Wilding
DiAnn Wright

Thanks is also given to Matt Quarez for his original drawing of the cover of this book.

Louis J. Clements

EASTERN IDAHO COMMUNITIES - PART I

Wilford, Idaho

This historical sketch of Wilford was compiled by O. K. Meservy and was in Volume I Number 4 of the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society Quarterly in the spring of 1972. It is reproduced here as it appeared then. Mr. Meservy was ninety-four as he formulated, arranged, wrote, and typed this treatise.

"Wilford was pioneered in the Spring of 1883. Thomas E. Ricks led a colony of people from Cache Valley and located the headquarters at Rexburg. From there they moved out to settle areas around the town including Wilford. On Sunday May 20, 1883, James H. Pincock, John A. Garner, Harold P. Heninger and others were camped on the meadow of the Teton River about two miles east of the southeast corner of the Wilford Townsite. The settlers desired to name the new settlement 'Hardy' after Leonard W. Hardy, counselor to Presiding Bishop Hunter of Salt lake City, but he declined saying, 'There is already one place named Hardy which is the hardest place I know.' They asked him what the W. in his name stood for and he told them Wilford. They named the settlement after his middle name.

"All provisions and supplies for the new settlement had to be shipped by horse teams from Cache Valley or by railroad to Market lake (Roberts) and then by wagon to Wilford. The snow fell so deep during the winter that the people had to go on snowshoes to visit neighbors or to go to Rexburg twelve miles away. Deer, elk and antelope were plentiful. Bears were also visitors at some residences. Wild fruits were haws, choke-cherries, service berries, currants, gooseberries, and some strawberries along the Teton River.

"Joseph R. Meservy installed a sawmill and a grain chopper in 1887. In 1888 a flour mill was doing custom work. In 1889 the Rexburg Flour Mill burned down, and the Meservy mill, run by water power from the Wilford canal, was the only flour mill this side of Cache Valley. They ran it day and night to furnish the bread of life for the people as far south as the South Fork of the Snake River and all of those north and east of there. People camped in the area while waiting for their grists to be ground.

"Wilford was in Oneida County, Idaho, until January 13, 1885, when Bingham County was created with Blackfoot as the county seat. On March 4, 1893, it became part of the new Fremont County.

"The area has been in four different Stakes of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. At first it was part of the Cache Valley Stake. The Bannock Stake was organized at Rexburg in 1884 and it included Wilford. The area was included in the Fremont Stake in 1896 and in 1909 became part of the Yellowstone Stake where it is now. (1972)

"During the anti-Mormon crusade in Idaho the name of the post office in Wilford was changed to Berry. When the franchise was restored the name was changed back to Wilford. C. A. Gordon (son-in-law of Nelson D. Russ) was an early postmaster there. He put the post office in Thomas Birch's store and had the owner serve as an assistant postmaster. When Thomas Birch died Mr. Gordon had his sister-in-law, Mary Russ, installed as postmistress and the post office moved to Heber Mitchell's store building. Mr. Mitchell's wife had died and he had moved back to Utah.

"The building had been changed into three rooms and the north one was rented for the post office and some merchandise the postmistress had to sell. She boarded at S. W. Orme's residence. In 1902, O. K. Meservy became an assistant postmaster. On November 8, 1902, he obtained one hundred twenty-three signatures on a petition to be made the postmaster. He received the necessary endorsements and on December 29 received his appointment from Federal officers in Washington D. C. He had his sister, Phoebe Meservy, appointed as his assistant.

"Two years later he moved the post office to the center of the townsite near the highway. When his sister, Phoebe, got married he had his sister, Jane, made the assistant. Mr. Meservy worked up a rural delivery plan to run from the Wilford Post Office. A man from Washington came out and approved the route but had his mind changed when he went back to Rexburg. It was suggested that a rural route should not operate from a post office that did not lie on or in a town with a railroad. The route was reported to operate from St. Anthony and was to start on June 1, 1906. In accordance with that order the Wilford Post Office closed on June 15, 1906. O. K. Meservy was the first RFD carrier and the last postmaster at Wilford.

"On May 9th and 10th, 1884, the townsite was surveyed by civil engineer Andrew S. S. Anderson, and on November 15th of that year William T. Brower had erected the first house on it. Joseph H. Brower and John Burrell quickly followed suit.

"In the Fall of 1883, at a conference at Rexburg, James H. Pincock was installed as Presiding Priest of the Wilford Branch of the Latter-day Saint Church. The first Sabbath meeting was held at his residence the next Sunday. Due to the Teton River being impassable at times, George David Black, who lived north of the river, was, on June 9, 1884, set apart as Presiding Priest. On September 6, 1884, Thomas Sasson Smith was set apart as Bishop of the newly created Wilford Ward. Apostle John W. Taylor presided at the meeting in Rexburg. Smith chose as counselors Richard Funk and John T. Brower, with his son Jesse L. Smith as ward clerk. Since then Wilford has had fourteen Bishops with Lowell Birch as the present one. (1972)

"The 'first day school' was taught in a private home on March 25, 1885, by William R. Jack.

"In May, 1884, the first Sunday School was organized with William J. Pratt as superintendent. There were sixteen pupils in attendance. The Y.M.M.I.A. was organized November 11, 1884, with Joseph H. Brower as president. The Y.W.M.I.A. and the Primary were organized soon after. In the spring of 1885 the Relief Society was begun with Orissa Brower (later Woolstenhulme) as the president. Other Sunday Schools were operated in various parts of the settlement for the convenience of the members.

"The various branches of the present stake were all connected to the Wilford Ward in those early days before St. Anthony came to preside over them.

"The first meeting house was built of logs in 1885 or 1886. It was forty-four by twenty-two feet and was the largest in the Stake. The rock chapel was erected in 1904 at a cost of four thousand dollars. It was dedicated by Mark Austin after it was fully paid for."

Thornton, Idaho

It was only a short time after the Oregon Short Line Railroad was constructed across the South Fork of the Snake River in what is now Madison County, that a small community commenced to be built, first called Texas Siding, and later named Thornton in honor of William Ezra Thornton. Mr. Thornton had been prominent in the establishment of a townsite, consisting of one hundred twenty acres, which was surveyed and platted into blocks and streets. He had established a small mercantile business and for awhile was postmaster.

As one considers the small community of Thornton, Idaho, today, it is most interesting to recall and contrast its early thriving history. During the teens and twenties, perhaps over a period of twenty-five to thirty years, this community boasted of many activities and was an enterprising center of commerce. Located on the main railroad line, about two miles north of the South Fork and astride the main highway, Thornton boasted of two fine general mercantile stores at one time. Mr. George Marler had taken over Mr. Thornton's store by 1909 and continued to operate it on an expanded volume for the ensuing many years. In the meantime one C. L. Galbraith opened a store and offered competition. A Midland Elevator dealt in grain. The Miller Brothers of St. Anthony constructed a fine elevator to engage in the grain business, besides establishing a coal delivery business. A spur from the main track enabled these businesses to prosper, and in time excellent potato warehouses were erected that provided employment for many local people. In addition to these, a barber shop, a blacksmith shop, and a lumber yard served the community.

In yesteryear, busy freight trains moved along the tracks both north and south, hauling coal, grains, some livestock, and in the fall of the year, sugar beets. The sugar company had a beet dump located at Thornton, later to be located north at the

Mark Beet Dump. A fine depot was constructed at Thornton, to accommodate passengers, provide living quarters for the agent and a fine office, in which telegraphy service was provided. A warehouse for freight was also available. During the summer months, particularly, the Yellowstone Park Special, catering to the park tourists, added to the numbers that used the trains passing through the area. The distant whistle of the freight and passenger trains, so familiar in that day, are now nostalgically recalled.

Thornton was a place where recreation and amusement could be found. Here a saloon existed, until it burned down. Mr. Fritz Hansen operated a movie picture house, which entertained patrons on Saturday night; a very large and commodious dance hall attracted the young and old from far and near; and many can recall with delight the good times had at this place until it, too, caught fire and burned down.

Under the direction of Reverend Baird, a fine community church service was provided parishioners. When conditions altered and insufficient numbers were available, this religious service was discontinued, and thereafter the building was used for school and other worthwhile functions. The bishoprics of Independence and Lyman co-operated in the support and supervision of an LDS Primary and Sunday School service in Thornton for a few years. This, too, was discontinued because of lack of attendance and apparent need.

Mr. Samuel Anderson was postmaster at Union, a short distance to the west, when this center was discontinued and a post office was located at Thornton with William E. Thornton as postmaster. The Horne brothers and others operated a mail star route from Thornton to Heise, located southeast of Thornton. At this location mineral waters known for their therapeutic values enticed a surprising number of visitors reaching Heise via the railroad at Thornton and thence by horse-drawn vehicle to the site.

Presently (1971), Mrs. Geraldine Evans operates the Thornton Merc., which is the successor to the Thornton and Marler mercantile stores. She is also the postmaster with the post office being housed in the store.

With its strategic location, the LDS Church in the mid-forties purchased from Mr. M. G. Koon and sons, the elevator at Thornton. Until 1959, this elevator served the many stakes in this region as a place where welfare grain was stored before being forwarded to become milled at Kaysville, Utah.

Eagle Rock (Idaho Falls), Idaho

The following article was written by an early settler of Eagle Rock. Eldora Shoemaker Keefer came to Eagle Rock with her husband in the 1880's. She wrote this article in October, 1933. It appeared in the Volume III, Number 4 of the Snake River Echoes in 1974.

"In the year 1864 Robert Anderson and Matthew Taylor built a ferry a few miles north of what is now Idaho Falls, and from an

eagle's nest in a big rock in the river named the place Eagle Rock. As traffic increased it became necessary to build a bridge, but as the river was so wide at the ferry, a better location was sighted, and the bridge was built midway between the present railroad and Broadway bridges. The first bridge was washed out, but in 1866 a more substantial one was built. It was first called Taylor's Bridge, but afterwards the Eagle Rock Bridge. This name was also given to the new town which was built near by.

"There was much traveling and freighting in those early days. As many as six thousand head of cattle and numerous droves of sheep were driven across the bridge in a single day. As an exorbitant toll was required from all travel over the bridge, it was a large source of revenue to the company who built it.

"A man named White owned and operated a salt works in the mountains near Soda Springs. He had a line of freighters, some with ox-teams, and some with mules, that made regular trips to Montana, this being a supply for salt for a large region of territory. Toll was also collected from this source, but after the railroad was built the salt works was discontinued, and the long line of freight wagons seldom passed over the bridge.

"Mr. Robert Anderson and his brother, J. C. Anderson, erected a small shack for general merchandising which in a few years was replaced by a log and adobe building; the settlement of the surrounding territory increased so fast, and their business increased accordingly, so in a few years a large brick building replaced the old ones, and for many years it was known as Anderson's Store and Bank.

"Some of these early settlers of the land near the town came from as far away as the New England states in the early eighteen seventies. Two of these families, Bucks and Heaths, were the first to irrigate their land from Willow Creek near where they homesteaded and also the first to raise wheat and alfalfa in this part of the state.

"Until the year 1880 Eagle Rock was little more than a good trading post and a stage station. It was the only crossing on the Snake River, but in the year 1880 a narrow gauge railroad was built from Ogden, Utah, to Butte, Montana. It was called the Utah and Northern Railway. At the same time the shops were located here in the northern part of the town, and Eagle Rock became a very busy place. Men from many states, even from the far East, came to help build the shops and company houses.

"The area was then called Oneida County and extended from Malad, the county seat, to the Montana line. Among the railroad buildings was a supply house 25'x40'. This building was afterwards moved on rollers to a point near Coy's coal office, and used for the first depot. Many of the company houses were built along Eastern Avenue. A commissary store was built near where Rogers Brothers seed house now stands. A deep cistern was dug near where the Milner Apartments now are. This place became a very busy western town, but this activity lasted only until the spring of 1886 when the shops were moved to Pocatello. This removal left the town practically dead and the population decreased from about two thousand to less than four hundred in

population. The town was now in a very unsettled condition. Many of the houses were torn down, some were sold, and some removed to other localities.

"Some improvements were made during the time of the railroad in Eagle Rock. Sidewalks were made from Eagle Rock Street to where the Milner Apartments are now. There was no levelling of the ground; the railroad ties which were used for the walks were laid on the uneven ground, and the sagebrush grew between the ties and beside them.

Eagle Rock Street was the business part of the city. Besides a number of saloons, there was a meat market run by a man named Wilbur, who afterwards moved to Pocatello; a book store, owned by Mr. Nelson; a small bakery, Mrs. Ross, the owner; Dr. Bean's Drug Store, Frank Ramsey being the druggist; a notion store run by Mr. Bunting, a grocery by Johnson and Poulson, and Dick Chamberlain's large frame building at the end of the street which held a saloon and pool hall and had rooms to rent on the second floor. Dick Chamberlain was a very early settler. He kept a rough house, and many fights and shooting scrapes took place in his building. He had been a soldier in the Civil War, and in later years, though at times financially embarrassed, he would never take a pension from the government; said he had not fought for money, but did his part to help save his country.

"The first W.C.T.U. (Temperance Union) was organized in 1884. The members rented a room on Eagle Rock Street, originally called Front Street, for a meeting place. They had a large muslin sign with the letters W.C.T.U. on the front of the building. One night a joker took the sign down and put it over the door of Chamberlain's saloon. The members heard of it and the next morning were early on the scene. Mrs. J. Ed Smith had a large pole and soon removed the sign, but it was torn in pieces by her efforts.

"There were some fine homes built on South Capitol Street, as well as many others scattered around.

"The first trees were planted in front of the Keefer house on North Water Avenue. The house was built and owned by a shop man named Thomas Manning, and was sold by him to W.W. Keefer in 1888. Mr. Manning had several friends who lived on the island, now called Menan. These friends were James Bush and John Reed. They brought some small cottonwood trees for Mr. Manning and planted them in front of his home where they grew for many years, always in danger of being broken or killed by the stock which then ran loose.

"On June 6, 1882, Mrs. Rebecca Mitchell, a Baptist self-supporting missionary arrived here from Hoopston, Illinois. Six days after her arrival she opened the first school in Eagle Rock. She had forty pupils. She used the little shack she had rented near the depot on the south side for a school room, boxes and benches for furniture. Some of our progressive men and women of today were her first pupils. In 1883 a frame building was erected near the site of our present library and was used for all school purposes. After a few years a block was purchased by the city and the building was moved to the present site now occupied by the Central and Junior building.

"The first Sunday School in the town was organized by the pioneer school teacher, Mrs. Rebecca Mitchell, June 11th, 1882. Mrs. Mitchell immediately began to raise money for a church building. In two years through private subscriptions and friends in the East the Baptist Church was built and dedicated in November, 1884. It was the first church between Ogden, Utah, and Butte, Montana. People of all denominations helped to establish this pioneer church, but in time withdrew to organize their own churches. Mrs. Mitchell had sent back to Illinois for her furniture, and a small organ of hers was used in the church. Mrs. Mitchell gave many entertainments for the young people, chiefly along the Temperance question.

"Mrs. Sarah Crow was the first musician to come to Eagle Rock, and was the first organist for the Baptist Church. After the building of the church several of the most regular attendants of the morning service were Robert Anderson and his wife. They were always accompanied by a tall Negro servant who seated himself in the farthest back seat near the door. The first resident minister was Rev. Elder of the Methodist Church, who remained only six months. The M.E. Church was erected some years later. Rev. M. J. Lamb was the first pastor of the Baptist Church, and had the oversight of the erection of it.

"There was a franchise of twenty years on the first bridges, but for nearly twenty-four years toll was still collected by the company who built them. In 1888 a number of public spirited citizens with W. H. B. Crow as leader went to Boise, and through their efforts the toll system was abolished and the bridge was thrown open free to the public.

"The first newspaper in Eagle Rock was dated April 1st, 1885, and was published by W. E. Wheeler, who had previously been publishing a paper in Blackfoot. It was Republican in principle. George Chapin was the first person to edit a Democrat newspaper.

"Eagle Rock is situated on that point of the Snake River where water rushes through a deep gorge in the lava, and of all the natural resources which surround the town and which when utilized will make a large city, none are more potent than the possibilities that lie in this great river...

"...In early days it was a very common sight to see men sitting along the bank of the Snake River with pans filled with sand in their hands, sifting out small particles of gold dust. At one time about two thousand men were mining on both sides of the Snake from American Falls to Shoshone. If one of the miners who left this section in 1870 was to return he would look in vain for some familiar object that would remind him that this was the same sage brush and desert place he had been in many years ago. Only two familiar objects might meet his gaze, the eternal lava rocks of the Snake River Canyon and the towering Tetons to the northeast.

"In the very early settlement of Eagle Rock there was no public cemetery. The alley back of South Capital Avenue along the river bank was used as a burial place. Six now unknown persons were buried there. Several graves were of children. The others were supposed to be those of men who met violent deaths.

After a few years some ground was purchased by the town for a burial place where our beautiful cemetery is now.

"In January, 1900, the name of this town was changed to Idaho Falls, so Eagle Rock History ends at that period."

Rigby, Idaho

The following article was printed previously in the Snake River Echoes Volume IV, Number 2 & 3, was a special on Jefferson County. The back issues were destroyed in the Teton Flood. The article was compiled and written by Cora C. Burton, dated March 12, 1936.

Downtown Rigby View From a Train

"The locality belonged to the Oregon Territory. It was traveled over freely by the bear, deer and elk, as well as other wild life of the mountainous region. Here, too, came the trapper and hunter into this animal paradise, making their living by selling the furs. This, too, was the home of the red man who roamed over its vast domain, pitching his tent and leading his care-free life.

"Later people from Cache Valley, Utah, pushed north and founded homes in the southern part of our state, coming further and further north until close to 1880 some more adventurous souls pushed into the valley of the Snake, making small settlements first in Menan and Lewisville. In the summer of 1883 or '84 other hardy souls follwed them, settling in our own locality. We find among these such leaders as E. S. Mathias, George Haywood, Bill Jones, John Saxton, the Parks, W. W. and Jake, George A. Cordon, the Call boys (Cyril, Omie, and Josiah,) Charles Doman, Dan Robbins and others. Some of these were accompanied by their families, others had come alone, only to look over the land, file on their particular plot for a homestead, and then return and bring their families.

"These hardy pioneers found the land covered with a heavy growth of sage brush, which, to them, was an indication of good soil. It was overrun by jack rabbits, deer and elk in abundance with an occasional bear, as well as other wild animals.

"Natural washes in the land were filled with water from the river, especially during the spring time. These must be deepened and widened to bring the water to the thirsty soil. As early as 1884 the Lewisville canal, which for part of the way was a natural channel, was extended to carry water to some of the land. Also, in the summer of '84 when these pioneers filed on their land, they knew it would be useless without water so the site for the Rigby canal was surveyed and work commenced. The men went into the mountains and got out logs to build their homes.

"True to their traditions they no sooner had their own homes built than they began planning for a church building. This house was started on the old 'Bill Jones corner' about a mile northwest of the present church site. Logs were hauled and the building was raised to the square when their plans were changed and the building stopped for a time.

"In the meantime a branch of the Church (LDS) had been organized at one of the homes with Dan Robbins as Presiding Elder, Cyril J. Call, Supt. of Sunday School, Annie Robbins, President of the YWMIA and Mary Ellen Call in charge of the Primary...

"...It is hard for us to realize that these people had very few of the improvements of civilization but had to carry on in a very primitive fashion until, through their own efforts, and ingenuity, they could add to their comfort and convenience. Their produce was hauled to Eagle Rock and disposed of in the best way possible. They had no money and had to produce their own food, make over and otherwise eke out their scanty wardrobes. George A. Cordon boasted the first pair of white pants made by his wife from an old seamless sack with the stripes down the leg.

"In the winter they hauled large chunks of ice from the canal or dry bed which were melted and furnished water for all culinary purposes as well as to water the stock. In the winter of 1886-87 a well was dug on the C.J. Call property, the first well in Rigby. That same winter or the next spring George E. Hill, Sr. also dug a well on his place, others following as soon thereafter as they could.

"A man by the name of John Standard had filed on the property where the Rigby townsite now is. He decided to sell so the townsite was purchased for the price of $20.

"The building that had been in course of erection for a church was moved into the townsite and completed. This was the first church, school house, and dance hall in Rigby, situated about where the Rigby Seminary building now stands.

"In the summer as the crowds increased for celebrations, etc. a bowery with posts for supports and covered with willows was erected. In the meantime a change had been made in the ecclesiastical status of the town. The branch had grown until a ward was organized on May 22, 1886, with George A. Cordon as the first Bishop.

"About this time the first school was held with Geo. A. Cordon acting as the first teacher. The desks were slabs of wood on legs, the books were anything which the children happened to have at home and tuition was paid in produce or whatever the family could get.

"Owing to the fact that Mormons at that time were disfranchised in Idaho and not allowed to hold public office, it was hard to get a board of trustees. W.W. Parks, J.N. Parks, and John Saxton were our first school board. While C.J. Call, Senior was not on the first board he probably has the distinction of remaining in that capacity longest, having been a member for sixteen or eighteen years...

"...The first building built for school purposes was a two room frame building on the site close to the present grade school building. Additions were put onto this building and when that was inadequate to take care of the growing population, the present grade school building was constructed, then the Senior High school building and still later the Junior High School.

"...Mail was being carried over from Lewisville three times a week. J.N. Parks was our first postmaster....The postoffice has gradually changed from a corner in the dwelling of the postmaster to the home which we now lease.

"Our first store in Rigby was in the Obadiah Armstrong home on First South Street. Later W.G. Kimball built a store on Main Street on the corner of Clark and Main Streets. This was the only store in Rigby for a number of years.

"The the Later boys came in with a small shack for lumber and coal which gradually grew into the Rigby Hardware and Implement Co. The Big Bostyon had a branch store here for a year or two followed later by the Golden Rule or Bower-Schweitzer store. The Marler Brothers came with their furniture store. C.W. Hill had a small general merchandise store. The Anderson Brothers Bank, a branch bank of Anderson Brothers of Idaho Falls, the City Pharmacy and others followed right along.

"After the townsite was purchased the church house was built. Most of the residents purchased lots and set out trees, but their homes were still on their ranches outside of town. One morning when some of the people went to Sunday School they found the community property put out in the street and were threatened with a gun when they tried to enter their building. After consultation with authorities they found they had not complied with the townsite law and Mr. Robinson was strictly within his rights when he 'jumped the townsite.' The only thing that could be done was to buy him off so a second time the townsite was purchased, this time for $250.

"As the place grew in numbers it was necessary for an organization to carry out projects for a bigger and better Rigby; so under the leadership of George E. Hill, Jr. a petition was circulated and signed in the summer of 1903 asking for a city government, and on September 3, 1903, the Village of Rigby came into being. It was governed by a Board of Trustees consisting of E. S. Mathias who was appointed chairman, William G. Kimball, Fred LaBelle, C.W. Hill, and Josiah Call...

"...Among the things which this organization did for Rigby was the building of a small building called the Social Hall on the site that was later leased to the county on a 99 year lease and the building was the nucleus of our County Courthouse. They also inaugurated a bond election at which the village was bonded to drive a well and commence our water system which was the envy

of larger towns north and south, as they were still using river water.

"Board walks were built on the main streets of town as our first sidewalks. They also made arrangements for a lighting system for the town. Concessions were granted to the Idaho Power and Transportation company of Idaho Falls and electric lights were brought into Rigby. Our first street lights were a string of small bulbs across Main Street at State Street spelling I. P. T. Co.

"The town continued to grow and prosper until it had enough people to meet the requirements of a city government, and on May 1, 1915, became the City of Rigby.

"At the beginning amusements were held in the homes where the people would gather with their picnic to sing songs and play games. Sometimes furniture was removed, rugs rolled up, and the people would dance to the accompaniment of the fiddle, the accordion or mouth organ. Later a hall was built by our enterprising pioneers where dances and amateur theatricals were held. Mrs. Mary E. Call used to take the lead often in these plays and Arthur E. Cordon was always the deep-dyed villain, while Os Myler and his sons furnished the music. This hall was replaced by the Peck Hall, upstairs where the Rigby Hotel now stands.

"The old hall became first the Kimball hotel for some years, then the Orpheum theatre, then the Star theatre and has only very recently been removed.

"In 1903 a man by the name of Harry moved into the town with material for a small town paper and commenced the publication of the Rigby Star. He ran it for about a year before he left town and a number of public spirited citizens who did not want to see the town without a paper took over the management. These were George E. Hill, Tom Johnson and others. They carried on until J.W. Jones, a real newspaper man, came in 1906 and took over the paper, enlarging it, and adding new features until we have a really efficient printing office at present..."

MOUNTAIN MEN AND INDIANS

The Three Kentuckians

When the Americans took over the area included in the Louisiana Purchase it caused a major change in fur trapping. Until then Manuel Lisa had almost a monopoly of trading on the Missouri River. With the advent of competition he organized the St. Louis Missouri Fur Company with Andrew Henry as one of his partners. Henry was to take the expeditions into the field and Lisa was to direct from his base in St. Louis.

Their first expedition was to take place up the Missouri River with their destination being the Three Forks country of Montana. They had three to four hundred men in their first group including the three men from the state of Kentucky.

They arrived at the Three Forks in April, 1810. A fort was built and the effort to collect beaver furs and to trade with the Indians was begun. The area abounded with beaver and at first it appeared that the expedition would be successful.

Their total experience with Indians up to that point had been with the Snake Indians who had come upon them as they were suffering from snow blindness and they had helped them to overcome the effects of the snowstorm. At their fort they tried to communicate with the Blackfeet Indians and were rebuffed at every point. The trappers even captured an Indian to explain that all that was wanted was a chance to trade. The Indian was released and promptly led a group back to attack the fort. With this unfriendly demonstration the trappers took down their flag and raised an Indian scalp to declare that hostilities existed between the two groups.

Between attacks from the Indians and grizzly bears it was decided to abandon the fort in Montana for a land more favorable to the safety of the men. They moved east and south and soon arrived in the Upper Snake River Valley. Here they built three shelters which were named Fort Henry. They had located themselves in eastern Idaho a few miles north of Rexburg on the Snake River. It was at this fort that the names of the three Kentuckians became known.

They were known as Edward Robinson, Jacob Reznor, and John Hoback. Not much is known about them except they were from Kentucky. Robinson was the most well known of the trio. He was sixty-seven when he was traveling in the Eastern Idaho area. He

was a veteran Indian fighter in his native state and had been scalped in one of the many engagements in which he took part. He still wore a handkerchief bound round his head to protect the tender remainder. Reznor and Hoback were noted as experienced fighters of Indians and were also noted trappers.

At Fort Henry they exhibited their individuality by choosing a central route to return to St. Louis rather than go with the main bunch of trappers through the Yellowstone River Valley. The three made their way across Teton Pass and then went eastward through the valleys to the eastern part of Wyoming.

While the trapping mentioned above was going on there were events transpiring in the East which were to have a profound effect on the Three Kentuckians. John Jacob Astor had decided to build a trading post on the Oregon Coast and had placed Wilson Price Hunt in charge of the land expedition to find a suitable spot on the Columbia River on which to build a trading post and fort.

Arriving in St. Louis on September 3, 1810, Hunt found a jealousy developing between his men and the group under the sponsorship of Manuel Lisa. Both groups were heading up the river but suspicion between the two caused a rift and a refusal to travel together. It took Hunt most of the winter to get outfitted and on April 21, 1811, his group began its ascent of the Missouri.

Lisa was trying to catch Hunt's party as he thought they would be able to pass through Indian country better together, but Hunt felt that Lisa might get the Indians to turn on him, so he pressed on. This developed into one of the greatest races ever run on the river. The reports of trappers met on the river began to discourage Hunt and it was soon decided to take an overland trip rather than risk the wrath of the Indians upstream.

This proved to be a fortunate decision as the party met the 'Three Kentuckians' and persuaded them to guide their group as far west as Fort Henry on the Snake River. As the three had just covered the area it was an easy trip with little trouble. In Jackson Hole the French boatmen with Hunt looked at the smooth flowing Snake River and decided they could navigate it with canoes. Upon further investigation, the river was found to be too fast and riled to be of use to the men in their travels west. They went on over Teton Pass and made their way to Fort Henry.

Here the 'Three Kentuckians' left the main group as they could be of no further use in guiding. They asked for traps and supplies and set out to travel south and west to trap. Exploring their way along the Snake they trapped each tributary and soon decided to leave the Snake to travel upstream on the Portneuf River. They were delighted when they came upon Bear Lake and envisioned it to be a great beaver producing area. But their joy was short lived.

A group of Indians happened upon them and relieved them of their furs, guns, and supplies. The men decided to try to make their way west to find Hunt, as they knew he had been traveling towards the coast.

Shortly after their first disastrous visit from the Indians they were held up again. This time the redmen took all of their

clothes and food, leaving them with nothing at all in their possession. The men trudged westward as fast as possible under the circumstances.

Hunt and his men had made their way down the Snake River from Fort Henry in canoes until they lost all of their supplies and boats at Caldron Lynn. From there they had proceeded down the river in search of food and suffered terrible hardship. They finally arrived in Oregon. Shortly after their coming to Fort Astoria news was received that a boat had been sunk in the northern waters after an attack upon it by Indians. This boat was essential to the survival of the members of the fort and it was felt that a group of men should be sent from Oregon to the East to inform the company officials of this loss. Robert Stuart was chosen to lead this group of men back along the trail they had come on as they headed westward.

It was with no lack of joy that the 'Three Kentuckians' saw Stuart and his group coming along the Snake River headed eastward. Coming upon a group of naked men in the wilderness must have caused some great amount of comment among the group from Oregon.

Here was a chance for the 'Three Kentuckians' to go home once more. Twice before they had turned down the opportunity to return to civilization for the charm of the Rocky Mountains and the Snake River Country. A third time they made the same choice. After informing the Stuart group of a new path to follow which would save them several days in their trek eastward, the three parted with a fellow traveler who chose to go with Stuart. They then bade farewell to the rest of the Stuart party and set out to explore westward as the others disappeared to the east. It is too bad that there is no record of the thoughts of these men as they once again gave up the chance to leave this wilderness to return to a more comfortable life in the East.

They made their way along the Snake River following the natural stream as it moved westward. In the Boise Valley they met several other trappers working out of Fort Astoria, Oregon. Together they trapped the Boise area until a marauding group of Indians happened upon them. In one swift battle the whole group was killed and the only witness to the incident was an Indian wife of one of the trappers, who was not at the fort but arrived later after the battle. She took note of what happened and told the officials at Fort Astoria what had happened.

It is a wonder that the mysteries of the wilderness could have such a hold upon the early travelers of the Rockies. Perhaps the men of the era are best typified by the hero stories which have grown up about them, some of which have been collected in the stories represented in the film Jeremiah Johnson.

Richard Leigh-Beaver Dick

There were still a few of the independent trappers around the Snake River Valley after the era of organized companies ended. Some of the men who were helping to run Fort Hall decided to stay in the valley to have homes rather than return to Canada.

Several of these men made the first farms in the Moody area just east of Rexburg where they raised cattle. The Barrys and Mulkays were on Moody Creek, and the Yeagers and Wolfs were near-by. There was not much produced of worth or for resale. Federal Marshal Fred Dubois in 1882 tells of no one living north of Idaho Falls but a few fishermen near Henry's lake suggesting the few around the forks of the river were not making much noise in the rest of the territory.

The most fascinating and the first of the white settlers of the area was a man known as "Beaver." Richard Leigh, which was his real name, was born in England on January 9, 1831. Contrary to common myth, he did not come to America as a stowaway but as a passenger. He joined the Hudson Bay Fur Company and learned the trapping art. He moved around as if in search of something, fighting in the Mexican War and later going into the Utah area. He met Brigham young, who is said to have given him the nickname of "Beaver Dick." His teeth protruded in the manner of a beaver.

Beaver Dick's First Family

When the Mormon War occurred, Leigh left Utah, not wanting to fight against his adopted country. He went north into the Idaho Territory to make his home. He was six feet tall and had red hair and blue eyes. In his capacity as a trapper he explored all over the country and was enlisted as a guide by the government on several occasions. Because of his abilities, he was enlisted as an interpreter during the Bannock Indian Wars in southern Idaho. He was in the vicinity during the "Battle of Bear River," although he did not take an active part. When the stories of the Yellowstone country brought Government men into the area to survey, Beaver Dick and Jim Bridger were hired to guide them.

Beaver Dick guided his group through the Teton Valley and Jackson Hole while Bridger led another group northward to the Park. Some of Leigh's group climbed the Teton Mountains but they failed to leave evidence of their feat. Later groups claim to be first as they could find nothing to show the efforts of those before. In Jackson Hole, the government group named two lakes after the Leigh family. Leigh Lake was named after Richard and Jenny Lake was named after his first wife.

Dick's first wife, Jenny, was an Eastern Shoshone and the daughter of Chief Washakie. The family had a dwelling on the east bank of the Snake River near it's point of confluence with the South Fork of the Teton River, some five miles west of Rexburg.

Jenny was a faithful and devoted wife to Beaver Dick. She demonstrated her ability to tan hides, cure meat, make and pitch wickiups, and faithfully nurtured his six children. In 1876 smallpox came into the Upper Snake River Valley. Henry Haines and his squaw and child came to Dick's lodge with the disease. They were cared for but the wife and child died.

Dick's family soon came down with the disease and on December 25, 1876, the first child died. Each day thereafter a member of his family passed away, and with the last child, Jenny also died. Dick laid Jenny and his six papooses away and built a wall of logs about them. A head-board marked each grave. Soon that attentive father came down with the disease and was close to dying. The careful ministrations of a friend, Tom Lavering, pulled him through. All had to band together to fight this disease for which there was no cure.

Beaver Dick's Second Family

In 1879 Dick married Susan Tadpole, a Bannock Indian. They had three children: Emma, William, and Rose. From this family have come descendants who number over one hundred.

Later in his life Beaver Dick had the privilege of guiding for Theodore Roosevelt as he was traveling in this country in search of big game. Leigh admired and respected the soon-to-be president because he would dress his own game after shooting it.

Dick died May 29, 1899, and was buried at his home north of Newdale at hog Hollow on the Teton River. He left his name on several streams, lakes, and special sites in the Valley. A monument and picnic area was named after him west of Rexburg on Highway 33 just past the Snake River bridge. This monument was initiated by the Rexburg Rotary Club in conjunction with the State Highway Department.

Dr. Merrill D. Beal tells of several others who made their homes in the area. Peter Weaver was another trapper who worked along the Snake in 1864. Others were 'Big Foot' Smith, the

Pierce brothers, and Jim Burns, whose name survives in Burns Canyon in the South Fork of the Snake River. Tex Parker and other trappers wintered just south of Rexburg, and gave his name to the Texas Slough.

The Indians and Trappers Returned to Pierre's Hole in 1972

(Rosemary E. Frantz helped to put together the Rendezvous in Teton Valley in 1972. This Rendezvous has continued each year since that time until the present, 1990. She is to be congratulated for her work and the work she did after the first celebration in keeping this historical event a part of the Valley's current history. This article is the story of what she accomplished in her own words.)

"It was while in Pocatello in January, 1972, that I learned of the 1972 Rendezvous to be held in Pierre's Hole. As soon as possible after returning to Driggs, I contacted Harold Forbush to find out what he knew about the plans. He was the only person I knew of who belonged to the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society. He referred me to Wendell Gillette of Victor, an active member of the Historical Society. I met with him and volunteered to help in any way that help was needed. Little did I know that day that for the next six months I would almost eat, work, play, sleep, and dream about the Pierre's Hole Rendezvous of 1972.

"The first planning meeting was held at the American Legion Hall in Driggs, on March 3rd. The invitation to attend was extended to all interested parties, be they Indians or trappers, and if they were neither, they could come anyhow-but 'Watch out, there's Injuns in them thar hills.' This first meeting was attended by about thirty-five of the Valley residents. It was presided over by Wendell Gillette, who gave a brief background on how the idea came about and what the Historical Society members had in mind to promote the celebration. Those who attended were enthusiastic and thought it would be a good idea to have the celebration.

"The tentative program for the day's events was discussed and suggestions to improve were forthcoming. A parade in Driggs about 10:00 a.m., a buffalo bar-b-que in Victor at noon, dedication of the monument to the Indians and trappers at 2:00 p.m., a participation type event at the snowmobile race track at 3:00 p.m., and the day's activities to be complimented by the rodeo in Tetonia, and Pierre's Playhouse in Victor.

"Gillette announced that the parade would be in three sections: Indians and Trappers, Pioneers and Cowboys, and Pretty Girls and Fancy Floats. First, second, and third place prizes would be given in each of the three sections of the parade.

Rendezvous 1972
Log Toss, Rope Climb, Tepees

"As frequently happens, 'The best laid plans of mice and men do often go astray,' and there were to be several changes in scheduling the events before the final day came. The second meeting was held on April 13th. The new schedule showed some time changes but the events were still the same with considerable enthusiasm being shown. Chairman of the afternoon program, Fred Mugler, mentioned some of the events and told of the help he would need to carry it through to completion. There would be prizes for events such as a black powder shoot out, an archery contest, log toss, tomahawk throw, shot put, and foot races.

"The Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society held its May meeting in the junior high gym in Driggs to discuss progress and have a program. Howard Dutton of the Portneuf Black Powder Club demonstrated his prowess with the muzzle loaders and told of his group's interest in coming to the summer Rendezvous. Members of the Historical Society were were also on hand to help Howard give a good show. Dr. Merle W. Wells, head of the State Historical Society, gave a short talk. There was a sparse turnout of Teton Valley residents.

"The Valley Bank was very generous with space and permitted the Historical Society to place a scroll and small bank on the counter to collect signatures and contributions for the monument. The signatures were to be imbedded in the concrete at the base of the monument. Logan Cordon and Wendell Gillette were the first to sign the scroll.

"John Sessions was pro-tem chairman, while Mr. and Mrs. Gillette had made contact with most businesses in the Valley for contributions for the prizes and monument money. The people of the Valley were most generous in their contributions for this event.

"The plans for the souvenir program were coming along rather slowly, the plea for old pictures of Valley people and activities went unheard for several weeks. Finally we were swamped with a delightful variety of snapshots. Unfortunately, we were unable to use them all, but the good choice was appreciated. George Norton, of the Teton Valley News, did a fine job on the layout of the program, and a lot of time in putting them together. It was ready and on sale about a week before the celebration.

"News releases were sent to thirty-three of the state's weekly newspapers, and to the Idaho Falls Post Register, the

Idaho State Journal in Pocatello, and the Jackson Hole Guide. Posters and flyers were distributed from West Yellowstone to Dubois, Inkom to Jackson Hole, and most points in between. Harold Forbush, Wendell Gillette, and I (Rosemary) were invited to be guests on the Don and Donna Show on KRXK radio in Rexburg. The interview lasted for thirty minutes. Another interview was given over the phone to one of the stations in Idaho Falls.

Trapper Salute to the Colors
Dedication of Monument

"After many weeks of ups and downs, Gillette finally was able to get a site for the monument and the future park. It would be the rest area on Highway 33 south of Driggs, next to Teton Creek. A concrete base was poured for the large two-and-one-half ton piece of granite from Teton Canyon. The granite was mounted on the concrete in time for the celebration, but unfortunately, the bronze plaque with the inscription did not arrive in time to be fastened to the rock.

"The weather for the whole week before the 22nd of July was rainy, cold, and just plain miserable. We all wondered how Saturday would be for the parade and afternoon events. The buffalo bar-b-que was to have been held in the Victor Park, but it rained all morning and was much too damp and chilly. The dinner was held at the Dutch Oven, next to Pierre's Playhouse and was cooked by the Second Elders Quorum of Victor, but unfortunately they ran out of buffalo by 7:45 p.m. and were out of food by about 8:15 in the evening. The food was delicious and a taste of buffalo was really enough.

"Saturday dawned a most perfect day for a celebration. It was still a bit chilly at the 9:00 a.m. parade time, but it was a beautiful blue, cloudless, sky. It was a fine setting for an outdoor celebration. The parade surprised all, participants and viewers alike, with its length and the ingenuity of the floats. We watched history unfold with the trapper trains in the lead, the oxen teams, cowboys, riding clubs, beautiful horses, pretty girls, and fancy floats. The biggest disappointment to many was the lack of Indians, the first human inhabitants of the Valley. Invitations to participate were sent to Browning, Montana; Ft. Washakie, Wyoming; Lapwai, Idaho; and our nearest

neighbors, Fort Hall, Idaho. Only one member of any tribe arrived, our contemporary artist, Kenneth (Crazy Horse) Cosgrove, from Fort Hall.

"The Dedication of the monument was held at 11:00 a.m. in front of the Teton County Court House. A Salute to the Colors by the muzzle loaders of Madison County and Bannock County was very impressive. The speech dedicating the monument was given by Dr. Grant Wilson, Superintendent of Schools, Teton County, Idaho.

"The snowmobile race track, about three miles south of Driggs, was the scene of feats of strength and stamina all afternoon. Shots rang out recalling the scene of one hundred and forty years ago, the battle between the Indians and the Trappers. Under the direction of Fred Mugler and his assistants, we saw archery contests, rope climbing, log tossing, tomahawk throwing, shot put, and foot races. There were several tepees at the site belonging to members of the black powder clubs. The owners graciously showed them to anyone who was interested in the inside of such a 'tent.' The women of the LDS Churches served refreshments at both the parade and the afternoon program. The proceeds went to the building fund for the Genealogical Society.

"The Teton Valley Saddle Club sponsored the rodeo that was held on Friday and Saturday evenings. In spite of the rain the Friday crowd was good, and the excellent weather on Saturday evening brought a full house, if a grandstand can be thought of in that way.

"The store front section of the Village Inn had some fine historical artifacts on display. Eugene Cowan acted as guard and guide for the items which were there. He reported that there were a good number of people coming through who were interested in the history and artifacts. We hope that next year more people of the Valley will bring in their interesting items.

"The celebration was considered a success by all who planned, worked, participated, and attended the weekend activities. So let's rendezvous at Pierre's Hole again in 1973."

Pierre Tevanitagon
(Old Pierre, the Iroquois)

Iroquois refugees from upstate New York sought safety to the west in Ontario after General John Sullivan's campaign drove them out of their homeland in 1779, and quite a number of them entered the Canadian fur trade. When depletion of fur resources further east began to dislocate Indian fur hunting, many of the better Canadian Iroquois trappers started a westward movement of their own. Among these westward moving Iroquois trappers in Canada was Pierre Tevanitagon.

As early as 1804 he is listed as a voyager in the Northwest Company roster compiled at the time of the merger which established the new Northwest Company. At that time he was stationed at Kamanistiquie (soon renamed Fort William), the company headquarters on western Lake Superior. Later when the council of the Northwest Company at Fort William decided to develop the beaver resources of the Snake Country, a number of

the best Iroquois trappers were assigned to the project. Pierre Tevanitagon, therefore, saw service farther west with Donald Mackenzie in 1816, and spent the next dozen years as a leader among the Iroquois trappers in the Pacific Northwest.

Upon reaching the Columbia and the Snake, Old Pierre (as he usually was called) found himself in a new land only partially explored. His new home certainly contrasted strangely with the country to which the Iroquois had been accustomed. Pierre and his associates never did adjust very well to their new life. Nor did they find it easy to adjust to the white man's ways in their new environment. Company rules and white management often failed to appeal to them. Company policy against private deals with other Indians, for example, simply did not make sense to the Iroquois, and was a repeated source of friction.

When Pierre got into serious difficulty in a horse trade with a Nez Perce Indian not long after reaching the empire of the Columbia, Mackenzie settled the matter with dispatch. Yet he aroused great resentment among the Iroquois through his bold action. Finally the Iroquois concluded they would be a lot happier if they could go off and trap by themselves. Mackenzie certainly felt dubious about any such plan. Yet since the Iroquois technically were free men, supplied on contract by the Company he let them spend the winter of 1818-1819 trapping independently in the Boise region. He had no practical way to restrain them. As he anticipated, the Iroquois got into trouble.

If the account of Alexander Ross, Mackenzie's close associate, is to be credited, the detached Iroquois showed more interest in chasing the Boise Indian women than in hunting the Boise River beaver. In any event the Iroquois lost most of their equipment before rejoining the others after Mackenzie's Boise Valley rendezvous in the summer of 1819. This escapade (if it happened that way) naturally did not enhance Pierre's reputation, yet the next season the thirteen Iroquois went out again to trap by themselves and had more hard luck. They caught six hundred sixty-nine beaver but had to cache them in the Snake Country until 1822 before anyone got back that way to recover the fur.

With Donald Mackenzie's departure from the Pacific Northwest, the Snake brigade, of which Pierre and his Iroquois formed an important, if unruly, component, had considerable difficulty obtaining capable leadership. After a season of inactivity, Michael Bourdon led the trappers from Spokane House thorough Pierre's Hole, named for Pierre Tevanitagon, to Bear River. Some of his Iroquois defected in 1822 in hope of getting higher prices for their furs in the St. Louis market. Pierre did not join them.

In 1823 Finnan MacDonald repeated the 1822 tour and continued past Bear lake into the Green River country. Blackfoot attacks on the Lemhi and Henry's Fork gave Pierre more experience in western Indian warfare than he really needed. MacDonald refused to take the expedition out again in 1824, and Pierre really did not want to go again.

The price allowed for their furs was so small in proportion to the exorbitant advance on goods sold to them, they would never

be able to pay their debts, much less make money, and would not risk their lives any more in the Snake country.

Alexander Ross, who took charge in 1824, talked Pierre into coming anyway. Rather than retrace their 1822 and 1823 routes, though, Pierre suggested a tour westward from Lemhi Pass through the Salmon River Mountains toward the Boise region. For a time, Pierre and his Iroquois contributed mightily to the strength of Ross' expedition. When eight of the trappers got lost, Pierre led a band of twenty out to find them. He succeeded. His force, in fact, had power enough that a band of hostile Blackfeet fled rather than fight him. No longer fearing the Blackfeet, Pierre and his men soon wanted to try hunting again by themselves. Ross, like Mackenzie before him, was reluctant to agree, but could not stop them.

Pierre and his band went southeast while Ross continued westward past the Boise River. The way Ross explained it, the Iroquois simply repeated their Boise misadventure of 1818. They passed the time with the Indians and neglected their hunts. Pierre was camped on the Portneuf with 'The Horse' and his powerful Bannock band (the same band which had wiped out John Reed's post at the mouth of the Boise River in 1814). Ross could not prevent some of his men from stealing some Snake horses far to the west. Until news of the theft reached 'The Horse' and his large camp of Snakes, Pierre and his men were treated most kindly. But on hearing of the raids, the Indians pillaged them of all their horses and furs. In the scuffle a Snake chief was killed. Pierre was lucky to escape alive.

Ruined by their battle on the Portneuf, Pierre and his Iroquois wandered about the country. Finally they happened to meet up with Jedediah Smith and six of William H. Ashley's mountain men. Smith wanted to see the operations of the Hudson's Bay Company first hand. He offered to escort Pierre and his men on to the place appointed for their meeting with Ross and he traded them horses and equipment for their one hundred and five beaver.

After a trip back to the Salmon, Pierre had the honor of introducing Jedediah Smith to Alexander Ross on October 14, 1825. As a result of this meeting, more than a decade of direct rivalry ensued between the St. Louis mountain men and the trappers of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Alexander Ross showed no enthusiasm for meeting Jedediah Smith. For this misfortune he naturally blamed Pierre and the Iroquois "vagabonds." Yet aside from deciding to go off separately in the first place, Pierre really had no choice. Anyway, Ross was discredited for getting involved with the American trappers who were bringing potentially disastrous competition into the Columbia fur trade.

Annoyed that Smith's party was accompanying him, Peter Skene Ogden set out from Flathead House on December 20, 1824, with another Snake Expedition, headed for the Salmon, Bear River, and points south. Pierre and the Iroquois came along. Ogden had about the same experience with the Iroquois as had his predecessors. In spite of Ogden's diligence in trying to get the freemen to watch their horses, Pierre and some others had their

horses stolen on the Portneuf River at nearly the same spot where 'The Horse' and his friends had troubled them the previous summer.

Then, while the Snake brigade camped directly south of Cache Valley in Ogden's Hole, a mountain man named Johnson Gardner induced Pierre and a number of his associates on May 25, to desert the Hudson's Bay Company altogether. With the promise of higher prices for his furs, Pierre went with John Weber's party to Ashley's celebrated 1825 rendezvous on Henry's Fork of the Green River. There he arranged with Ashley to obtain all kinds of supplies for his associates as well as for himself. They needed lead pencils, needles, knives, guns, cloth, large chisels, files, beads, ribbon, tomahawks, bridles, earrings, blankets, flour, sugar, coffee, and pepper. Continuing to trap with Ashley's men, he profited enough that he was able to pay some of his debt to the Hudson's Bay Company when he met with Ogden again on April 10, 1826.

As a result of Pierre's and the Iroquois' defection in the celebrated Johnson Gardner incident, the British company had revised its price structure to compete with Ashley. Ogden noticed that Pierre and the deserters were already tired of their new managers. He anticipated their return to the Flathead House of the Hudson Bay Company that fall. Pierre, however, attended Ashley's 1826 rendezvous in Cache Valley instead. Spending another year with the Americans, he set out for the Upper Missouri after that years rendezvous with Robert Cambell's party.

By now Pierre certainly was an old hand at fighting the Blackfeet. He had engaged in a number of encounters, including Finnan McDonald's notable battle in 1823 on the Lemhi. Now, on his way out of the Blackfoot stronghold, Pierre was not lucky enough to survive another skirmish. On Red Rock Creek near the head of the Jefferson, "He had advanced too far," Campbell explained. Although he owed twenty-four dollars to Smith, Jackson, and Sublette and some more to the Hudson Bay Company, his widow had a credit of nearly eight hundred dollars with the Americans by 1830 and property in Canada sufficient to pay off his mortgage to the British traders.

More important than financial solvency which he worked so hard to obtain, "The Iroquois Chief" (as Ogden called him upon hearing of the Red Rock disaster in 1828) made a lasting contribution to the fur trade of the Pacific Northwest.

EASTERN IDAHO COMMUNITIES - PART II

Ririe - Settlement and Early History

This article was put together by Gardenia C. Summers and was printed previously in the Snake River Echoes, Volume 4, Number 2 & 3. It came out in the Jefferson County special in 1975.

"Late in the nineteenth century settlers from Utah and other regions began to hew farms from the sagebrush flats called Antelope. This flat extended from Conant Valley to what is now the Lane Clark Hill.

"Pioneers like William Johnson and Joe Mason brought with them seed wheat that was especially adapted to survive the harshness of the country.

"Ironically, the first settlers were skeptical of the productivity of the land. However, they soon found that it was rich, fertile land and the yield of crops was abundant. Because of the fruitfulness of the land Antelope was quickly homesteaded.

"In those times there were few machines with which the farm work could be done. So the work was done by man and animal power.

"As with every growing country, problems upon problems harassed the settlers constantly. Where to send their children to school, where to live in the winter, how to get the country organized, and where to sell their wheat were only a few of the more important problems that had to be solved.

"The farmers built a school almost in the middle of the flat but it proved to be a failure because of the distance that the children had to travel.

"Valley farmers had similar problems. Because of transportation difficulties, small groups of farmers were drawn together by a common need to built schools, churches, and form their own communities.

"Some of the communities which surrounded what is now the present site of Ririe, were Perry, Shelton, Poplar, and Heise.

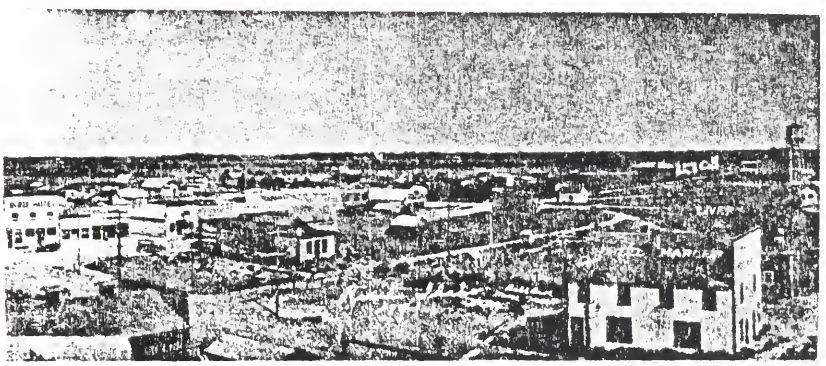
"All the problems from the largest to the smallest combined to help create the town of Ririe.

"Due to the need for transportation of crops the railroad officials decided to build a loop through this area. The people of Shelton objected strenuously to giving up part of their land for the track. David Ririe was in favor of the railroad loop and spent many hours with the railroad's officials. He helped

persuade Mr. Hewitts to donate the land for the railroad since much of Hewitt's land was in sagebrush.

"In 1914, the metallic ring of steel upon steel was heard through the valley. Sweating men laid the shining rails through the sagebrush covered flats. These 'gandi' dancers were under the supervision of Mr. Harris, who was an official of the Oregon Short Line.

"Mr. and Mrs. David Ririe provided board and room for the seventeen railroad men for nine months after which the Marier Hotel was completed and the men stayed there.



Ririe, Idaho - Early 1900's

"Soon the area around the newly built depot became a thriving community. The Vetter and Hewitt Corporation platted the village in November of 1914.

"In order to attract more settlers, Mr. Hewitt offered a free building lot to the first person who would build a house. Milton Freeman was the one who took advantage of this offer.

"Many hotels and restaurants sprang up to accommodate the people who were coming in to settle this area. The first hotel was erected by King Homer. This hotel stood one block east of where the Ririe Hotel is today.

"The organization of the village finally took place in 1935 early in the year. T.G. Taylor was the first village chairman. At that time the village was unincorporated. To become incorporated a village had to meet many specifications. For a struggling young town these were exceedingly difficult. There were so many difficult questions to decide. The question of how to plat the town was predominant.

"A branch of the Rexburg First National Bank was started in 1916. Ross Comstock was the first president of the Ririe Bank. R.E. Harris served as the director and Harry Home and John Anglesey were two of the first employees.

"Cosby and Idol started a newspaper in 1916. The first edition was published on April 13. The newspaper which was called the Ririe News was in existence for only a few years.

"Gradually more land was added to the original site, increasing the size of the town. As land was added the town grew in population the number of buildings expanded. Among these were

three general stores, one drug store, two garages, four hotels, three restaurants, three barber shops, two lumber yards, three blacksmith shops, three livery stables, two butcher shops, two show houses, one bank, one furniture store, one pool hall, one newspaper, two grain elevators, two contract grain elevators, one stock yard, one dance hall, and one freight and passenger depot. These operations were all doing a thriving business.

"To gain the advantages of an organized village the people voted unanimously to incorporate their community into a village.

"Serving on the first village board were Andrew Swenson, chairman; R.C. Parks, T.G. Taylor and Duke Potter.

"As the town grew the people saw the need for a school. By the end of 1918 a grade school had been constructed. Two churches served the community at that time, the Community Church and the LDS Church.

On July 4, 1919 the worst disaster in the history of this small village occurred. A fire got started somehow in the livery stable and burned like a 'wild fire.' The people were stricken with terror as the flames jumped from building to building. Everyone was doing all he could but with the small fire fighting force and lack of equipment it seemed completely hopeless. It appeared that the entire town might be devoured by the hungry flames.

"One excited person by the name of Gus Kunter grabbed an axe, climbed on the roof of a burning building, and started chopping away at the roof. The firemen working on the same building accidentally directed the spray of water on him. The force of the water knocked him to the ground and injured him quite severely.

"People were running in all directions. Children were bawling, women were screaming, and men were shouting as they rescued the people who were stranded in the two hotels. They were among the buildings which burned to the ground.

"When the greedy flames were finally brought under control many buildings including some of the town's largest were completely destroyed.

"Before the fire Ririe was at its peak growth. Afterwards the town remained about the same size and became a very prosperous shipping point for wheat. The gently rolling foothills outside the town were the source of the rich, dry farming land. The fertile flat stretches of the valley needed only the water from the Snake River to produce beautiful crops of potatoes, grain, and alfalfa.

"The Snake River overflowed its banks and flooded the Ririe area in May, 1927. People moved to higher ground when they heard the flood was coming. It took about one year to get logs, wood, and other debris cleared from the land..."

Pioneer Entertainment - Grant

The following article was printed previously in the Snake River Echoes, Volume 4, Number 2 & 3 which has been out of print

since the back issues were destroyed in the Teton Flood. There was no author with the story which was printed in 1975.

"The pioneers were hard working people but always had time to entertain, plan parties in the home, read plays, and play solos as their home talent permitted. Some of the boys formed a harmonical or mouth organ band to play at parties and programs.

"In the pioneer days people were sociable and took time to visit relatives and neighbors. A father and mother would take the family in a wagon or if in winter into the bob sleigh leaving home after the morning chores were done and drive up to ten miles to spend the day visiting. There was always room in a pioneer home so many times beds were made on the floor and they stayed all night. They aided one another at harvesting and erecting buildings. The women would make rugs, dry fruit, and quilt.

"Dancing was one of the earliest forms of recreation. At first the music consisted of a mouth organ, fiddle, accordion, organ, or whichever was available. They danced the Virginia reel, waltz, mascot two step, Chicago glide, and quadrill. The square dance was the most popular kind. Those who called were John Bybee, Dave Hiatt, O.W. Hudman, and Charley Randal. Mr. Hicks, his son Earnest, and Rube Wilins played the violin. If you did not have the price of a dance ticket you could pay in commodities such as butter and eggs. Often the young men went to Beam's flat and got a load of willows for the public school and in return were given tickets to the dance. Home made ice cream and lemonade were sold at basket socials where the ladies brought box lunches for two and during the dance the boxes were sold to the highest bidder.

"The most popular holidays were Christmas, Ward Reunions, and the school programs which every one looked forward to. The entire family would go to the ward reunion in the morning and stay all day. They would go home long enough to do the evening chores and then go back to the dance which lasted until midnight. The Fourth of July and especially the Twenty-fourth of July were the summer holidays. In later years the old folks picnic was the greatest event for people past 65. There were no trees for shade but that was overcome by building bowers of willows. Ball games were enjoyed by all as was horse shoe pitching.

"The people lived far apart and the only means of travel was by horses which developed horsemanship. Groups would get together to break horses both for work and riding. Contests of roping, riding, racing, and pulling were attractions that always drew a crowd. In 1898 Rube Boam rode to Idaho on horse back driving horses from Utah. He was a great horseman and rode an exhibition of riding in 1907. Soon the boys gathered at his place and Rube taught them to ride broncos. This soon developed into a Rodeo. Amateur Rodeos were held at the Grant Ward for entertainment with Rube Boam as director.

"A Literary Society was organized. Topics of interest were discussed and debating became quite popular. Many fine programs were enjoyed by both young and old.

"Fishing was a sport and also a means of providing food. No license was needed, there was no limit, and they shared with

friends and neighbors when their luck was good. Some hunting was done for sage hens.

"Home dramatics played a big part in the social life as well as being educational. The proceeds from the plays helped in the purchase of books, furniture for the church, Sunday School and Mutual supplies, stage equipment, curtains, etc. Much hidden talent was found and developed and many fine plays were produced and enjoyed by the community."

Iona, Idaho

The following information was supplied by Linden B. Bateman who served as a board member of the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society. It was printed previously in the Snake River Echoes, Volume 4, Number 4 in 1975.

"The history of Iona is typical of the histories of dozens of small southeastern Idaho farming communities settled in the last part of the 19th Century. That history involved a few families leaving some settled area, each family taking all its possessions in a single wagon, travelling many days and then launching a lonely assault on some stretch of sagebrush wilderness. The harshness of the lives of those pioneers shocks us. Although that history was lived within the lives of some individuals still living today, it seems very far removed from us.

"In 1883 three men coming from Utah filed homestead entries on land about one mile west of the present townsite of Iona in east Bonneville County. They were Rufus Norton, Joseph Mulliner, and James Stewart. They moved with their families to the area in 1884 and were joined by the families of Chris Olsen, C.J. Owens, John Norton, Ted Cox, Hans Hansen, Leander Norton, and James Reynolds. They were soon to be followed by George Ward, James E. Steele, the Longhurst brothers, and in the next several years by the families of Henry Denning, Ole Olsen, W.H. Rushton, H. Dahlstrom, A.J. Stanger, the Rockwoods, and the Coopers.

"These were the first settlers of Iona and what did they find? Sagebrush, nothing but sagebrush. No trees. There were a few willows along Sand Creek. The sagebrush was high, however, indicating rich soil and the first grain ever planted there was in the soil by June, 1884.

"The settlers were discouraged by the bleakness of the landscape and it wasn't until they were urged to remain by Wilford Woodruff and Heber J. Grant, apostles of the LDS Church, that they made the final commitment to put down their roots. The visit of the two dignitaries, each of whom later became president of the LDS Church, marked the first LDS meeting of the community which later became Iona. It was held at the Rufus Norton homestead, 1/4 mile east of the present day Beach's Corner. A stone marker stands at the spot though it has been desecrated by vandals and the inscribed plaque removed.

"The memorable June 17, 1884 assembly was attended by the above named apostles, Thomas Ricks of Rexburg, perhaps 8 to 10 adults, and a few children. This was an open air meeting as no

cabins had yet been built. A wagon tail gate served as a pulpit. At this meeting the settlers were urged by the apostles to remain and were told that within a short time they would have a meeting house, a school house, and all the necessary facilities for the civilization they left behind.

"This gathering was named the Sand Creek Branch of the Lewisville Ward of the Cache, Utah Stake. During the same year the Bannock Stake was organized. It included the entire eastern section of Idaho from Preston to the Teton Basin area. It is interesting to note that today there is an Iona Stake. C.J. Owens was the Presiding Elder of that first meeting and the first LDS official in Iona.

"How did the first settlers live? Some lived underground in dugouts. Others built small sod roofed cabins from logs which had to be hauled from a distance of 30 miles, or from mud and stone, quarried and cut by themselves. One of the latter type cabins is still located on the Reed Olsen farm east of the townsite. It is a single room 12' x 14' structure with a dirt floor and no windows. One must wonder what the winters must have been like for a family with children in such a humble structure. The furnishings were, for the most part, hand made. Many years later Mrs. Rufus Norton commented that a fancy rocking chair brought from Utah was the lone reminder of the luxury she had left behind.

"The Side Hill Canal, which brought the first irrigation water to the Iona area, was dug starting at the junction of Sand Creek and Willow Creek. It was a hand plow and scraper job. All of the families took their turns working on the canal often camping at the work site for one or two weeks at a time. The canal also provided drinking water for man and beast alike and was the source of much disease during the early days. Water had to be hauled by hand from the canal, sometimes great distances.

"James F. Shelley was the first school teacher in Iona. School was held on the first floor of a log cabin. Mr. Shelley also started the first store in Iona, the Iona Mercantile Store. This frame building also housed his family in an attached room. The store was eventually sold. It became corporately owned as part of a chain system. The Iona Merc is still doing business in a stone structure built in 1897. Mr. Shelley moved from Iona to the town which bears his name.

The Iona Merc

"In 1888 a stone structure was begun which would eventually serve as a school and church house. The building still stands, restored by the Bonneville Art Association. That proud old building is one of the oldest buildings still in use in Bonneville County and is the only major structure in the county which has been restored in its historic setting for future generations to enjoy. When the rock church was completed an organ was ordered but no one could play it until John Whitehead was urged to come from Bear Lake to settle in Iona.

"James Steele purchased the 160 acres which would become the Iona townsite for $200. He had the site surveyed, the streets laid out, and then sold plots to the settlers. Mr. Steele was a progressive leader in the community and the town's later development owed much to him.

"The first telephones in Iona were installed in Mr. Steele's home and in the Iona Merc in 1903. Electricity reached the town in 1908. Although much work was left to be done, Iona at this time could have been described as settled. She even had a brass band."

Lewisville - In The Beginning

The following story was compiled by Edna Ellsworth in 1975 and first appeared in the Snake River Echoes, Volume 4, Number 2 & 3.

"Tall sage and a stream of water lured the early settlers of Lewisville to set up their camp on the south bank of the Dry Bed at a site, if located today, directly east and north of the Wells Barney home. This channel of the Snake River during the spring run-off carried the high water of the river and then as summer advanced receded and oft times went dry. Thus, it was named the 'Dry Bed.' Upon their arrival it was running too high to ford.

"The first four men coming from West Weber, Utah, to Lewisville were : Edmund, Brigham, and John Ellsworth, grandsons of President Brigham Young, and their brother in law Richard F. Jardine, who was married to Lana Caroline Ellsworth, a granddaughter of President Young. John at this time was not married.

"As they set this first camp up early in the evening of July 10, 1882 the mosquitoes swarmed in upon them so thick that they couldn't make their sour dough bread or care for their horses. They broke camp and drove down river some three miles and made camp on what is today known as Beam's Flat. A breeze was blowing in from the river and they spent a fairly restful night.

"The next couple of days the men surveyed on horseback this section of the Snake River Valley from whence flowed such glowing reports. They rode east as far as Heise Hot Springs and returning they rode west a considerable distance. Their entire route followed the concourse of the Snake River through tall sage so abundant that only the head and shoulders of the rider ahead could be seen. Such profuse growth indicated the richness and fertility of the soil. Well pleased with their survey the men staked out their claims each taking 160 acres or a quarter of a

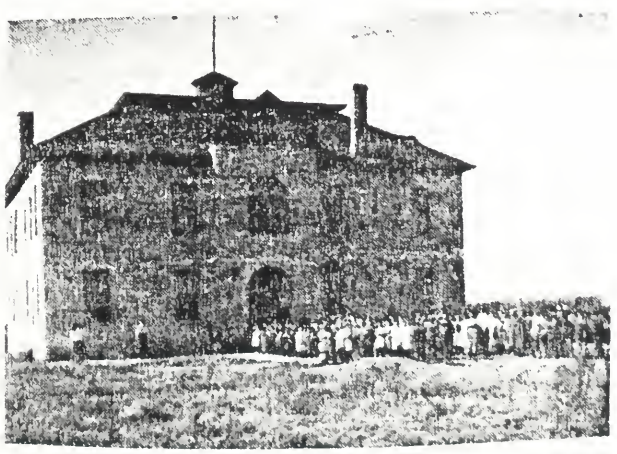
mile by a mile section. The claims were bordered on the north by the Dry Bed. Lewisville became home.

"Next came the task of finding suitable water for the home. To their joy they found clear water at a depth of 10 to 12 feet and they began to dig wells. This was done by hand shovelling until they reached a depth where the soil could not be thrown upward. Then a pulley was rigged up and the soil brought up in wooden buckets. Then the well was 'cased' in and a pulley system set up. As the bucket filled with clear water to be drawn up an empty bucket was lowered.

"On August 17, 1884 the Lewisville Ward was organized. The year before on October 25, 1883 it had been made a branch of the Bannock Ward of the Cache Stake. Bishop W.B. Preston was one of a number of officials who were present. He suggested the name 'Lewisville' upon the approval of the founders. The Snake River was called the 'Lewis' River by the early trappers in honor of Captain Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

"Our first meeting house was a 20 x 30 foot log building used as a church, school, and community center. The seats were made of logs that were planed smooth. This was completed in the fall of 1884. These were exciting years because Idaho was a Territory and the Mormon people were disfranchised from 1884 to 1890. Fred T. Dubois and his compatriots kept the social climate hot. Dubois, the United States Marshall for Idaho, did his utmost to destroy the LDS Church influence here. Mormon names were removed and replaced by those of militant agents. It was very difficult to find three non Mormons who were willing to act as a Board of Trustees.

"It took a stalwart such as Bishop Jardine to hold a firm line. This pioneer log church and school came under attack. When the Federal agents arrived with the 'new teacher,' Bishop Jardine asked him where he would hold his school. In as much as the Territorial Office had sent him here, that department could furnish him a school house to teach in. The little log building served its mission well before it burned down and was replaced by a modest red brick one.



Lewisville School

"The Neil Gilchrist family came in 1884. Mr. Gilchrist had made bricks in Wales. He and his boys had a brick kiln on the Church Square where the present Town Hall stands. Likewise, in the early 1890's, George Kinghorn and his brothers opened a kiln in the Bybee area. Thus many of the early day red brick homes were built of these adobes including the red brick school house. To enter Tolman's Store today, one would never realize this building to be the popular store of that pioneer era. The Gilchrist boys built a two story building. The ground floor of the store supplied the settlers with fine merchandise. Dances were held on the second floor with a covered outside stairway leading to the floor. Much entertainment was enjoyed here..."

A Pioneer School and Church - Centerville

Elva Tall Kinghorn is to be thanked for compiling the following information on Centerville. It first appeared in the Snake River Echoes, Volume 4, Number 2 & 3 in 1975.

"The first thing the settlers of this great Snake River Valley did was to build homes, school houses, and churches. Our surrounding country was dotted with school houses. On the north were Menan and Annis, on the south were Garfield and Grant, to the west was Lewisville, to the east was Rigby, and in the center was the important little school called Centerville.

"The building took care of all the social activities of the community. In a compilation of the Bybee Ward, by Norma Morrie, the following description is given, 'The Bybee meeting house was typical of its kind for the era in which it served. A long, narrow frame one-room, high ceiling affair with its main entrance facing the east. High narrow frame windows were spaced along the north and south walls. A small stage at the west afforded eminence for the presiding officers...'

"A large pot bellied stove sat in the middle of the long narrow room. Long, hard, high backed benches were moved into whatever position would offer the best working space for class instruction. To fit their needs, black or gray curtains were drawn east, west, south, and north over a network of sagging wires. To illuminate social functions at night the gas burning lights suspended from the high ceiling had to be lowered and lighted. Then they had to be extinguished properly.

"When the pupils increased in number a partition divided the school house into two large classrooms. Here the pioneer boys and girls went to school during the week and everyone went to church on Sunday.

"Children walked a mile and a half or more to school, bringing their lunch in tin pails which were put in the window sills or on the floor along side the coats which were hung on pegs.

"A country store known as Borams was located about a half mile north and east of the school. Many boys and girls at noon hurriedly took their pennies there to buy sticks of licorice, stick candy, jaw breakers (a large round piece of candy with a

marble inside,) horehound, mixed candies, and gum. Across the street from the store was the log home of Erastus Walker, a school trustee. In his home the school books and supplies were kept.

"Men nearby served terms as janitor. Their duties were to keep the building clean, to build fires, and to bring in wood and coal so the teacher or older boys could keep fires burning during the day. Drinking water was available from a common dipper.

"Later came the time when more room was necessary to maintain the school. The men of the community united and made bricks from the clay soil, built a kiln to fire the bricks, and dug a basement for a larger building. Their work was halted when M.J. Hammond of the Rigby school and other suggested consolidation with Rigby and Lewisville. The issue was voted on and a decision made for some to attend Rigby with the first busing to take place in the community. The new school-covered wagons drawn by horses came into existence. The children were transferred to larger schools.

"Thus the Centerville school dissolved but the building was never idle. It continued in use as a meeting house for a branch, a unit of the Lewisville Ward.

"When Centerville School Building had served its purpose as a school and church it was purchased and placed on the Coleman farm."

The Story of Menan

The following material was compiled by Alice Andrew. It was first printed in the Snake River Echoes, Volume 4, Number 2 & 3 in 1975.

"The story of Menan includes what was originally known as 'The Island' and took in all of the territory now known as Menan, Annis, Lorenzo, Labell, and all surrounding country on the island which is bounded on the north, east and west by the Snake River and on the south by the Dry Bed River, which is really a branch of the Snake River.

"It was a wild place filled with all kinds of wild game such as deer, elk, bear, wild chickens, and ducks. The rivers and streams were filled with fish. The grass, brush, and trees grew everywhere. Wild currants and haws were plentiful for gathering to make jams and jellies.

"Before settlers came into the Island a number of cattlemen located around Roberts used the it for grazing. The Hudson Bay Fur Company was very active here in earlier days. The Heal Brothers used the Island for grazing and called it Heal's Island. Among the trappers was one named Richard Leigh, known as Beaver Dick, who lived in the forks of the North Fork and South Fork of the Snake River from 1860 until his death. He had a Shoshone Indian girl for a wife. She and her children died with small pox. Peter Beaver, another trapper, lived along the Snake River in 1864 and he also had an Indian wife. He was still here in 1879 and perhaps later.

"Tom and Bert Wright and Charley Martin were here in the days before the Mormons came. Orville Buck was also among those who remained after the Hudson Bay Company discontinued operations in this community. In 1873 he settled near where the town of Menan is now located. He later moved to Willow Creek where he successfully grew wheat and alfalfa.

"The cattlemen tried to discourage anyone with farming, but Joe and Oliver Fishers settled their families near the Little Buttes in Annis in March, 1879. They were the first Mormons to settle on the Island.

"The Utah and Northern Railroad was under construction in 1878-79 and John R. Poole was employed in this work. The company suspended the work for the winter, but John Poole, Josiah Scott and two companions stayed and hunted deer on the Island that winter. In February, 1879, when his sons returned to begin work for the railroad, he sent his two eldest sons, Wilburn and Hyrum, and some other young men to look for a likely place to start a new home. Mr. Poole went to Utah to discuss his plan with church officials. He described the country and they were so favorably impressed that a committee visited 'The Island' in March, 1879 and returned to Ogden and made preparation to come back. In July, 1879 quite a large number of families came into the valley.

"The settlement here was first called 'Poole's Island.' Then sometime later it was called 'Cedar Buttes' and was not known as Menan until the establishment of the first post office. The word 'Menan' is an Indian word and means 'Island.'

"The settlers had a hard struggle and many of them returned to Utah. The mosquitos that filled the country during the summer was one reason many of the people left. Many of the families took their livestock across the dry bed either in boats or swam them across and went east to where Ririe now stands and up to Meadow Creek and Antelope and even as far as Conant Valley to get away from the mosquitoes. Some took care of other families cows and took them to Island Park. They milked them throughout the summer, made cheese from the milk, and then gave some of the cheese to the owners of the cows as payment for the milk.

"In those early days flour was about the hardest food to get. The first year or two after they came to the Island, Mr. Poole went to Cache Valley and operated a threshing machine and took grain for his pay. He had it ground into flour and brought it back to the Island. Later when the settlers raised their own grain they hauled it to Oxford, Idaho, and had it ground into flour. Later a flour mill was built in Rexburg.

"The first flour mill in Menan was put into operation in September, 1894, fifteen years after the settlement of the Island. The first 'miller' was Felix Roberts. Later John Yearsley became the miller. He ran the flour mill until he became too old to work. Burt Smith and Lawrence Bybee bought the mill. Later it was occupied by the Anderson Seed Company and used to clean the seed peas. Then still later the Menan Starch Company used the building to process potato starch until the building burned.

"During the summer of 1879, John R. Poole called a few Saints together and held Sunday School and Sacrament Meeting, the

first to be held in the valley. This was held in a bowery erected for that purpose and was located directly south of the present townsite of Menan. At a later date a log building was erected somewhere near the north end of the present new chapel. This served as a school house, meeting house, and recreation hall.

"On November 25, 1881 the Saints who had settled on Poole's Island, Snake River Valley, were organized as a branch of the Church (known as Cedar Buttes Branch) by Mariner W. Merrill of the cache Valley Stake Presidency with John R. Poole as presiding Elder.

"On August 17, 1884 at a quarterly conference held at Rexburg, Idaho, Robert L. Bybee was sustained as Bishop of the Menan (then Cedar Buttes) Ward.

"On August 21, 1887 W.N. Stevens was ordained and set apart as the Bishop of the ward. During his term as Bishop a new chapel was erected. This chapel was used for 41 years.

"In the spring of 1883, there was a big emigration from Utah and Elias S. Merrill, William Merrill, G.H. Cutler, David Sessions, Jock Hughes, and Robert Gibson were among those who came that year.

"The Menan town site was surveyed by Andrew Anderson in the spring of 1883. It was then given the name of Menan by R.L. Bybee who was appointed Presiding Elder of the ward. William Stevens was the first Bishop of the Menan Ward.

"Spencer Raymond established the first store. Susannah Lawson was the first school teacher. The first ditch was taken out in 1880 and the first crops were harvested that year.

"The first school house was a log cabin located near the Dry Bed southeast of Menan near the place where the Clyde Jones home now stands. It was built by Tom Caldwell. There was only one desk and it was used by both the teacher and the students. The school burned down and a new larger log building was built near the present Church site. The first school was held in 1881 and the teacher took money, pigs, chickens, or whatever the parent had to give her as pay.

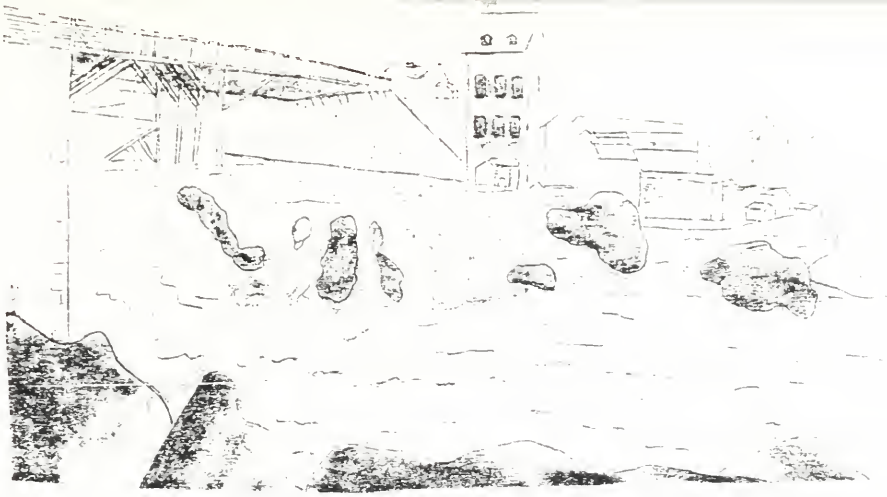
"There were few bridges across the Snake River at that time. One of these was built in about 1865 across the Snake at Eagle Rock, now known as Idaho Falls. It was called Taylors Bridge after the builder. Later the Anderson's bought the bridge and it was operated as a toll bridge for many years. The fee to cross was 50 cents for a man, $4 for a team and wagon, 25 cents per head for cattle, and 15 cents per head for sheep.

"Ferry boats or fording were ways of crossing the rivers. A Mr. Gray built a ferry on the river near the Big Buttes. He lived in a small Log cabin built of cottonwood logs, with a dirt roof and a dirt floor. After Gray stopped running the ferry Tom Caldwell bought it and operated it for several years. It was one of the first around here.

"A good ford was near where the Lorenzo bridge now spans the river. There was another ford on the Dry Bed where the railroad bridge is near Midway. Another one was farther west near where John T. Poole's present barns and sheds are.

"When Fremont County was to be divided and a new county formed, to be called Jefferson County, Menan and Rigby both wanted to be the county seat. There were rallies, meetings, and celebrations to get votes to win the honor of being the chosen town. Rigby won because of it's location on the main railroad line.

"It was a real boost to Menan when the railroad came through and we had a railroad depot."



MISCELLANEOUS STORIES

A Critical Look At Historical Editing

As you wander through the libraries of Idaho and look for books on the history of this state, the conclusion you will come to is that there is a tremendous lack of written material on our heritage. Most of the books written specifically on Idaho history or about certain parts of Idaho have been worked on by Idaho authors or by those acquainted with the areas being written about. Other history books on the West that describe mountain men, Indians, mining, cowboys, farming, and etc., sometimes leave much to be desired with respect to this state and its vast amount of history. There are many errors present and at times this is due to neglect on the part of the writer. Writing at long distance from the subject creates problems in geography and specific local features. It is hoped that the volumes of history that are coming out of the Centennial will provide material to help fill in the gap in Idaho.

One book in particular, which was very well done, but researched, apparently, in its entirety no more than two hundred miles west of the Mississippi River, shows the problems of research away from the site of the actual happening or without visiting the area being talked about. The following discussion is meant in no way to detract from the editor's work but merely to point out the problems involved in writing with only maps for guidance and at times maps which are out dated.

The book is entitled, On The Oregon Trail-Robert Stuarts Journey Of Discovery, edited by Kenneth A. Spaulding in 1953. This book is the day by day account of the Robert Stuart party returning from Oregon in 1812-13. The group of explorers had arrived in Oregon in bad condition having suffered considerably in coming overland from St. Louis. Their supply ship had been blown up and they wanted their headquarters to know of their plight. It was decided to send a small group back to St. Louis to let the heads of the company decide what to do at that point. Stuart was chosen to lead the group of seven men. They followed with a slight detour, the route later to be known as the Oregon Trail. It is on this detour that I would like to direct attention.

On September 13, 1812, Indian smoke across the intended path ahead caused the trappers to turn northward from the southeast corner of Idaho. Six days later they were near Alpine, Idaho, at

the upper end of present day Palisade Lake. At this point the travelers lost their horses in a daring attack by the Indians. With no transportation left for their supplies, they built a raft to go down the South Fork of the Snake River to look for friendly Indians with horses to trade in the valley below. It is on this trip down river where a better knowledge of the area might have changed the editor's script.

On the 22nd of September they camped at a low spot on the side of the river. The editor states they were east by north from Iona, Idaho. This small community was used when the larger towns of Idaho Falls or Rigby were almost as close and much easier to find on a current map. Several maps consulted by the editor do not even list Iona on them.

The next day after traveling twenty miles they made camp. The editor states they were west of Ucon, Idaho. This is an error in judgment as west of Ucon there are no mountains on the river bank but rather small lava formations and low lying farm land. On the 24th of September they went sixteen miles further downstream. This would still have them out in the Snake River Plain among the lavas flows. The description in Stuart's Journal for this day is, "...A part of the river where the mountains on the right and cut bluffs on the left made us apprehensive of rapids..." This spot is easily identified as being downstream just a little from where Burns Creek enters the Snake River still within the mountain area of the Big Hole Range. Obviously they were not out in the Snake River Plain as the previous day in the Journal's editing suggests in the footnotes.

At this point the editor states the men were twenty-five miles south of Newdale, Idaho. Newdale is usually connected with history on the Teton River and to get to the South Fork of the Snake River, one would have to cross many miles of rolling hills and the top of one of the ranges of the Big Hole Mountains. Here Rigby, Idaho Falls, or Heise Hot Springs would have made a better location point as they are on the Snake River or close by it.

The men left the river as it entered the Valley. They decided that they had made a mistake in looking for friendly Indians and also felt they were too exposed to other Indians in the valley. They made their way northeast across the Rexburg bench toward the Big Hole Mountains bordering Teton Valley. On the twenty-ninth of September they camped on Moody Creek some ten miles east and south of Rexburg. The closest town of reference at that point is Rexburg. This obvious land mark is ignored in favor of a footnote saying, "...at a point about fourteen miles west of the location of Sam, Idaho." Most people have never heard of Sam, as it is now a ghost town, having gone out of existence in 1934 with the closing of the post office and the shutting down of the coal mines. The buildings were all removed and the town does not show up on any of the maps of the Teton Valley. Somehow its obscurity was denied as a map back east states of it's existence.

I have discussed only the small area covered in this part of Eastern Idaho as it is very well known to me. This book helps show the need for first hand observance and up to date maps in historical writing.

A Tribute To The Snake River

In the early days of the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society organization there were members of the Board of Directors from areas around the valley. J. Edgar Birch was a director representing Fremont County. He was a colorful character who always had a good story to tell. The following an account of his feelings for the Snake River Valley. This was first published in the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society Quarterly, Volume 1, Number 4 in 1972.

"In the heyday of its youth, when the ambitious Snake River was cutting its way across the lava sod, and soil of what was to become the future state of Idaho, it could not have possibly channelled itself through any other part of that state, where its waters could have served so well the pale face culture that took over in the Redman's fatherlands.

"As though from a source of wisdom, divinely inspired, the Snake found its way through the state at the exact location, where its future service would bring the most wealth and value, through the white man's application of its waters, to the state through which it flowed. In no other location of the state of Idaho could the Snake River have served so many acres of land, and so many numbers of peoples, with the system of irrigation that was, and is, through the valleys that this grand old stream coursed its way across arid Idaho.

"Who says that the Snake River Valley of Idaho is not a chosen and choice land? It seems that destiny decreed that this should be a land choice above all other lands. Fortunate, indeed, are those who are so privileged as to find homes and sustenance in the Snake River Valley.

"Others may boast of their grandeur, their assets, their blessings, but the proof of the pudding is in the eating, and, no doubt about it, we of this Snake River Valley have the proof. Fresh mountain air, clean breezes, bright and brilliant skies, super abundant fertile soils, spaciousness to breathe without pollution, pure water to drink without contamination, scenery as no other place on earth to enjoy, weather, to thoroughly invigorate, and a citizenry and culture second to none, is our proud, just, and true claim here in the Snake River Country in Idaho.

"Hurrah, for the Snake River! The Golden Nile of Idaho. So long as the sun shall shine, and the mountains shall stand, may its stream of liquid gold enrich the valleys through which it flows."

Idaho Merchant Tokens

Kendell Lee Ballard has been collecting tokens of Idaho for over thirty years. He is considered to be one of the experts on tokens used by merchants since the beginning of Idaho's history. He served for many years on the board of the Historical Society. The following information was assembled by him and was first

published in the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Quarterly, Volume 1, Number 3, 1971.

"In my search for samples of all of the Idaho merchants' tokens I have found that people do not understand what a token is. By definition a token is a medium of exchange that is not authorized or distributed or manufactured by a known, recognized governmental agency. A token can best be described by the following illustration. We are all familiar with the Washington quarter which is the United States of America quarter dollar coin. If this was changed slightly and the denomination "quarter dollar" was removed from the coin it would be a medal. Just a piece struck honoring George Washington and not a medium of exchange. Then if we drilled a hole in it or added a loop on top to be hung around the neck or on a watch chain it would become a medallion. If we left the quarter dollar on the coin and changed the United States of America to Rexburg, Idaho, we would have a twenty-five cent token.

"Tokens were known by many names such as 'Hickies,' scrip, trade checks, etc., and there were cases in history where tokens and medals were official, but in general this illustration holds true in recognizing the difference in coins, medals, medallions, or tokens.

"The saga of the merchants' token in Idaho deserved a place in history along side the mining saga, the political saga, the fight for water rights and range lands, the struggles of early settlers, or any of the other colorful events that make up the history of this great state. One can look over the lists of the almost 3000 known tokens and chart the economic history of the communities and regions of the state of Idaho. Due to the fact that many of the earlier mercantile tokens are dated, we can see the times of the first significant economic activity in a community. The earliest known dated token is the Winer's Brewery and Bakery of Idaho City dated 1865. This token would show that mining activity in Idaho city was at least near its peak in 1865.

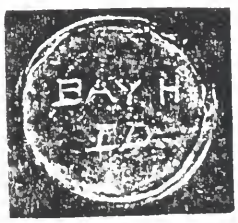
"The next earliest date is the George Briggs Mercantile store of Lyman, Idaho. This token indicates the established economic activity only a couple of years after the town was first settled. The token is dated 1896. The next token in the date line brings Waldrums Drug Store of Rexburg, Idaho. This token states 'dependable Druggists since 1898.' This would indicate that Mr. Waldrum was one of the first to dispense drugs in Rexburg, if not the first.

"We then see few dated mercantile tokens until 1915. Almost half of the known dated tokens have the date 1915. Some examples are Teton Mercantile, Teton City, Idaho; Talley Brothers General Merchandise, Sweet, Idaho; L & B Company General Merchandise, Hazelton, Idaho; H. S. Beals General Merchandise, Hansen, Idaho; Zurcher Brothers Groceries, Boise, Idaho; Judd & Anderson, Marshfield, Idaho; Curry Mercantile Company, Curry, Idaho. Other dates include Oakley Cooperative Store, Oakley, Idaho, 1918; Evans Mercantile, American Falls, Idaho, 1912; L. Creps General Merchandise, Cambridge, Idaho, 1913; and the White Front Grocery, Parma, Idaho, 1917.

"The mercantile tokens, by far, offer the greatest amount of history to the reader and researcher of Idaho commerce. They are the largest group of dated tokens and also they are probably the earliest of the tokens to be used in Idaho. There is evidence to believe that in some communities the tokens of the 'Merc' were the only medium of exchange. One man told me he could get a shave, a boot shine, livery service for his horse, or any other services that were offered in the town and pay for them with tokens of the 'Merc.' One mercantile store purchased school teachers' bonds with their script and gave the teachers tokens. The teachers could buy the necessities of life with the token and the Merc would redeem the bonds with the county when the taxes came in.

25¢ Size

25c Size



Gilmore, Idaho tokens

"The Mercantile tokens offered another great service to the early settlers of Idaho. When moving from one area to another it was not practical to take great amounts of small change in their limited carrying capacity, therefore most people would pool all of their resources and exchange for twenty dollar gold pieces or whatever larger denominations fit their needs. When a community was developed it was soon found that there was a terrific shortage of small change to offer them in ease of trade. The mercantile of the community offered them the small change needed to perform adequate and efficient trade activities. Many times the people would exchange their gold pieces for tokens and spend the tokens from the exchange over a long period of time - rather like credit in reverse.

"Another service offered by the mercantile was that of purchasing produce from the people with tokens which they in turn could spend at the store. The merc would purchase eggs, vegetables, salt pork, and dairy products with tokens.

"With the advent of the anti-gambling laws in Idaho, there came a great surge of tokens from the beer parlors and pool halls. The law stated that money could not be used in gambling and these types of businesses would issue tokens with their names on them to use as gaming counters, card table chips, and slot machine checks.

"With this wide-spread practice came the use of the token primarily as an advertising check. Everyone would issue tokens and distribute them in hopes that when the token was redeemed it would be at their establishment. Although the use of mercantile tokens had pretty well died out by the end of the great depression, the saloon token survived great popularity through the early forties. Of all the tokens, the trade token of the pool hall and the cigar store are the most plentiful in kinds and numbers.

"One difference between the cigar store token and the mercantile token was that while the merc token circulated fairly widely most cigar store tokens would be redeemed only at the place of the issuer. A cigar store that took in everyone's token would soon find himself with a high inventory of tokens from business places that were closed or changed hands, thus making the token worth only the value of the brass it was made of.

"One can see some good humor in tokens. The token of R. G. Reyes of Jerome was good for 'one sheep shorn.' The Reilly's token of Buhl, Idaho, was good for fifty cents at the lunch room and forty cents at the Fox theatre. The Tillotson's token of Boise put his address as 'Kitty Korner from Post Office.' Ted's Place in Blackfoot was good for eight and one-third cents in trade. The Pastime Cigar store of Rock Island, Idaho, was mis-struck and should have been Rockland. The Swan & Anderson token of Burke, Idaho has Mr. Swan signing his name on the token of a swan swimming on a pond.

The Clark & Fanning Mercantile (top)
Swan Valley (middle)
Iona Mercantile (bottom)

"The story of tokens as a medium of exchange did not officially end until a national law prohibited their use in 1963. Although records on film and paper will burn and will dissolve when buried, the token lives as a historical record of that part of time they spent their usefulness. Some survived fires and many years of burial to be rediscovered as a permanent part of Idaho's history."

A Goal Is Achieved

The first issue of the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society Quarterly was published in the summer of 1971. The following summary of the Historical Society was the first article in this issue. For a full summary of the twenty-five years of the Historical Society see the chapter in this volume under the name of said society.

The Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society was organized on April 23, 1965. Since that time it has been the goal, dream, and hope of this historically minded person to see a quarterly to represent the Society and to serve people who are interested in Idaho history. The above journal is number one of volume one and it is hoped that it will represent the first of a long and worthy series to come.

The Society had thirty-six charter members on that day in April some six years ago. The meeting was held in the David O. McKay Building of the Ricks College Campus. Professor Norman A. Ricks and Professor John Nash led the discussion as to what was to be accomplished and what support was to be had. It was agreed by all that there was a need of collecting and preserving articles such as farm tools, furniture, diaries, pictures, letters, etc., while they could still be found. After much discussion a motion was made by Gale Reeser that there be a historical society formed in the Snake River Valley. It was seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Thus the association was formed and set forth to fulfill many goals.

The next week a group met to pass on a proposed constitution. The name of the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society was formally adopted. The area to be covered by the Society was to be the counties of Bingham, Bonneville, Jefferson, Madison, Teton, Clark, and Fremont. Thirteen board of directors were appointed and John Nash was made chairman of the Society to serve until October, 1965. The board members were Norman A. Ricks, John Nash, Dr. Blair Rich, Dr. Blaine Passey, Louis J. Clements, Darrell Huskey, Dick Smith, DeWayne Wilding, Parley Rigby, Martha Pond, Eldred Lee, Orville Larsen, Terrell Arnold, and Dorothy Hegsted, secretary. Of these there are still four who serve as board members today (1971).

On May 12 the constitution was presented and approved. Each part was read and voted on. At the next meeting of the board a new chairman was elected as Mr. Nash was leaving to continue education in California. Norman Ricks was elected and was to serve for almost five years.

With the Society organized there were many activities to take part in. The sponsoring of a booth in the Madison County Fair drew large crowds and created a great amount of interest. Many people were willing to give items to the Historical Society as soon as there was a place to put them.

At the annual fall meeting held November 17, 1965 Dr. M.D. Beal of the Idaho State University was the guest speaker. He expressed pleasure at the organization and gave several pointers on how to keep going. The spring meeting was held in April, 1966 and the speaker was Dave Crowder. He spoke on the history of

Chief Tendoy. Mr. Crowder was to serve on the Society board shortly after this talk.

The nature of the public meetings soon came to follow a pattern. The fall meeting was to feature the family of one of the prominent pioneers of the area. With this in mind the families of Sheriff Munns, John R. Poole, Thomas E. Ricks, and Richard (Beaver Dick) Leigh have been honored. The spring meetings were to feature history and guest speakers. Some of those programs have featured Dr. Blair Rich with slides of historical sites, Merle Wells of the State Historical Society with a discussion on the use of museums to educate the public, Dr. George Marlor who talked of his geological experiences in the Yellowstone, and several local historians with discussions of area history.

In March of 1967 a series of historical articles began appearing in the local papers of Rigby, Rexburg, St. Anthony, and Ashton. These short essays on history were being prepared by director Louis J. Clements and were appearing under the heading of the Historical Society. There have been almost one hundred and fifty of these articles which have appeared in the past four years.

A contest was held at the Madison County Fair to determine the public interest in designing a seal for the Society. The contest was judged by the board of directors and a cash prize was awarded to Kathy Nielson for her drawing. This seal was not adopted but was used by the board as a model for the drawing which appears on the cover of the publication and is the official seal of the Society.

On March 21, 1970, the Society found a home. Board director DeWayne Wilding opened a new business and allowed the Society to rent half of the floor space for the displaying of artifacts. Display cases were arranged in a pleasing manner and the museum came into being. There was a large crowd in attendance at the opening and a lot of interest expressed in the collection of artifacts which was displayed.

A meeting of the board in October, 1970 brought the resignation of Chairman Norman Ricks. He had been called to serve as an LDS Bishop. He was given a warm vote of thanks for the tremendous job which he did and the service he rendered. Elected to succeed him as chairman was Harold S. Forbush.

April 9-10, 1971 were the dates for the First Annual History Fair sponsored by the Society.

The final event of importance to the Society was the vote to form and publish a quarterly. The voice of the Historical Society to its members would be a pamphlet which could inform them of the news of the working of their association and could also present them with information of the heritage of their valley. The journal would provide a forum for members and others to present their views.

The Rigby Star - 79 Years in Jefferson County

The following information was first printed in the Snake River Echoes, Volume 4, Number 2 & 3 in 1975. The author of the article is missing.

"Jefferson County's oldest and perhaps one of Idaho's oldest businesses began its existence in Rigby in 1903 under several ownerships and editors. J.W. Jones arrived in Rigby in April, 1905, and purchased the newspaper, having previously, been associated with newspapers in Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota. He began his newspaper career in Oskaloosa, Iowa. Mr. Jones set up a newspaper with a mailing list, advertising rates and all the procedures of that day and thus began the long tenure of Rigby newspapers under the direction of the Jones family.

"When the first type setting machines were available a linotype was purchased and modern presses added. During the campaign for the county division to establish Jefferson County, Mr. Jones was in the main ranks of the many who supported the division with Rigby as county seat. Jefferson County was carved out of Fremont County.

"Mr Jones died in 1918 and the management was taken over by his son Robert Irvin Jones. A younger son, Wm. J., was enroute to France to serve with American Expeditionary forces. The two brothers devoted a combined effort at the close of World War I, to maintain one of the best newspapers in Idaho. They enlarged the plant, bought the present building, and devoted their lives to serving the people of the county and communities.

"During World War II, The Rigby Star inaugurated a service which was unique. Air mail Rigby Stars were sent to nearly 400 service men throughout the war torn world. This continued in addition to their regular editions for nearly four years.

"In 1917, Hope Bennett Jones, then a high school student, joined the force as a part time employee and later became a steady member of the newspaper staff. She married Wm. J. Jones. Five years after the death of her husband she assumed the editorship following the death of her brother in law, Irvin Jones in 1955. She has devoted her entire time to the publication. She has taken an active part in community and civic affairs and served for two years as president of the Idaho Press Women. For thirty years she was a teacher in the auxiliary organizations of the LDS Church and the Relief Society. Her only daughter, Jane, graduated from ISU and is a teacher in Pocatello. She has two children.

"Lawrence Jones and Hope B. Jones have carried on the work at The Star since 1960, often meeting adverse conditions, illnesses, and other problems which come into the lives of people.

"Now (1975) in its 73rd year, The Star continues to be a country weekly, to have correspondents who hold their columns open to serve every community. It is non-partisan in policy and non-sectarian seeking to serve people of all religious faiths who live here.

"Within its piles of bound files is the history of the county, its communities and cities, and many of its people, past and present. These sources are often used by people in preparing genealogies, establishing birth records (even before 1911), and is often used to establish legal records.

"'Some of the great men of the times have visited this newspaper. Some were Sen. Wm. E. Borah, Gen. Liggett, Vincent Astor, and our own local celebrities Larry Wilson, Philo Farnsworth, Vardis Fisher, and that wonderful lot of people who over 73 years have been coming to the office counter, to tell us news, to pay their subscriptions, and to visit. They are the people who have sustained us,' commented Hope B. Jones, The Star editor. Her final comment, 'The history of Jefferson County, its communities, are written in The Star.'"

A Darkening Night Sky - Early TV

Honored as an area historian was Quincy Jensen. He is known throughout the Valley as one who is interested in and knowledgeable about things that happened in the past. In 1975 he told the story of early TV in the Snake River Echoes, Volume 4, Number 4. This story is related below.

Kinport Mountain

"KID TV began broadcasting December 20, 1953, at noon with a program of old movies, films made for television and some kinescopes. Kinescopes were programs aired live in major markets and filmed from the TV tube for use in less populated areas. There was always a desire to improve programming by bringing in live TV, but the problems to overcome were many and expensive. The first attempt to use something close to 'Live' was a kinescope of the world series of baseball filmed from a TV tube in Salt Lake City, processed, and flown by aircraft to Idaho Falls for air use later the same day or evening. There were technical difficulties for a couple of days and by the time the series was over everyone was sure there had to be a better way.

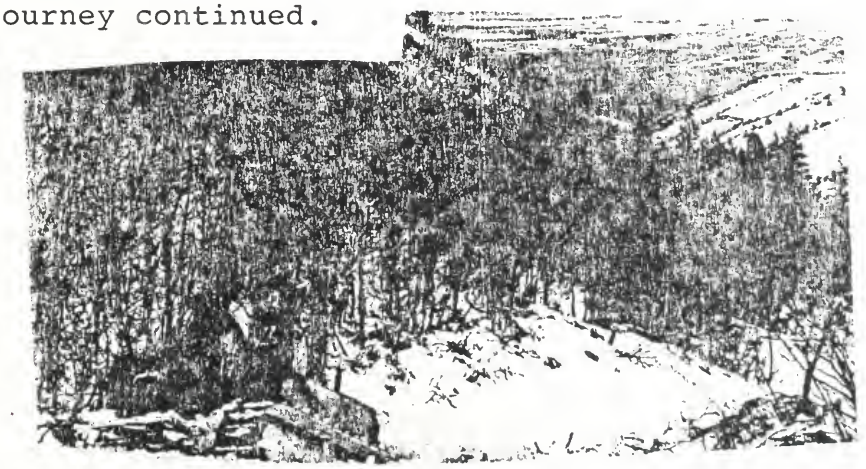
"The next world series was picked up by antennas on Kinport Mountain, south of Pocatello, and beamed by microwave to the KID TV transmitter. After being 'jammed' for one day by unknown

persons who went to a great amount of trouble and expense to wipe out our scheduled live TV, the remaining games of that series were successfully televised.

"The KID broadcasting management then decided to put enough of an installation on the same peak to finally bring in live TV on a daily basis. KID's chief engineer Carroll Secrist had the task of bringing in the equipment, food, and fuel for an engineer to stay at the location through the winter months. The road which wound over the hills south and west of Pocatello was steep and rough in places. It was with a sense of satisfaction that late in November S.K. Steward and his dog were settled in for the winter.

"About the time the snow reached normal depth, the generator motor developed problems and it was necessary to take a replacement up the hill if live programs were to continue.

"Southern Idaho Equipment Company built a platform for the replacement motor on the draw bar of a D8 crawler tractor and with Lee Clapp as the operator we started up City Creek Canyon, south and east of Pocatello. The snow was loose and deep. At one time Carroll and I walked ahead as Lee turned, twisted, and backed up. Anything to make some progress on that difficult road. At one point I heard what seemed a different sound from the tractor motor. I turned to see the tractor almost standing on its hitch. In a panic moment I thought, 'He'll be killed or injured when that thing falls on him and there won't be a darn thing we will be able to do to help him!' A few seconds passed, and with a wild 'shump' the front of the tractor dropped forward and the journey continued.



Lee Clapp nears the crest of the hill
on his difficult journey

"The new motor was installed and the old one was left behind for a spare. We walked easily down the hard won hill to witness a scene of wild beauty as the setting sun outlined the hills opposite and the city of Pocatello against a darkening night sky."

Perils of the Path

The following three stories are incidents remembered by the authors regarding the fun kids had in their growing up days. The 'path' stories originated with the Fremont County Historical Society. These stories appeared in 1976 in the Snake River Echoes, Volume 5, Number 1.

This story was written by DiAnn Wright.

"Of all the adventures that awaited the early pioneers, those brought about by the inconveniences of the time were often the most memorable, the most humorous, and the most talked about to children and grandchildren.

"We would like to bring you some of those experiences in hopes they will bring a smile to your face and a pleasant memory of your own 'Perils of the Path.'

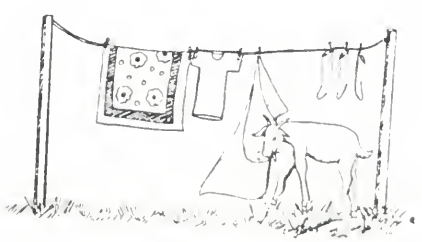
"This story was related to me about a rooster that loved to make the path perilous. The story goes like this:

"'We had a mean old rooster. His greatest delight was to take every advantage for making my life miserable. His favorite spot for bushwacking me lay on the path to the outhouse. He always knew my most desperate moments and chose them to attack. Only the cries to my mother saved me from near disasters.

"'If the old rooster wasn't there, the blackbirds were, dive bombing at all of us as we made a mad dash down the path. A person had to be fast in those days to avoid one disaster or another.'"

"Even though I'm not that old I remember silly things that happened on the farm.

"We had a goat that was always raising my mother's temper. His favorite food was sheets hanging from the clothes line. Of course, anything else that happened to be hanging around made a fine dessert. He had his faults but even though mother disliked him greatly he was our pet and we loved him, so he stayed.



"One day he did win my mother's favor. A salesman had come to the house, and while mother was trying to get rid of the salesman the goat spotted his car. The goat knew just what that shiny car was good for.

"We saw him first and our squeals and giggles brought the salesman's attention to what the goat was doing. That silly old goat was using the car as a slippery slide. Up the hood and down the trunk he went. It was one fun slide after another. Well,

needless to say, the salesman left rather quickly and we never saw him again.

"Most out buildings, whether the outhouse or the sheds, seemed to attract the hornets and wasps. We had a fine nest of hornets in our shed. Of course, being kids and ignorant of the fact that the little beasts could be so cantankerous, my cousin and I decided to investigate a little closer. Well, I guess they liked their privacy because right away they got mad. I managed to escape their wrath, but my cousin wasn't so lucky. Have you ever seen a nose that's been stung right on the end by a hornet? It started swelling right away and got pretty red. The mud pack we applied seemed to soothe it, but did nothing for my cousin's looks. I had a good laugh, but my cousin couldn't seem to see the humor in a big red nose covered with mud.

"If I had been born a few years later I would have missed the experience of trotting down that long path to the 'Little house out back' while brothers and sister yelled, 'Don't let the boogie man get you,' or 'Watch out for monsters.' I would have missed those times we had to entertain ourselves by snooping in a hornet's nest, playing bullfight with an ill tempered sheep, or seeing who could catch the most frogs. Because television and other modern wonders hadn't yet come into our lives, I experienced the last of a special era, and you know what - I'm glad."

This story as remembered by Doris Anderson.

"Do you ever get the feeling that you are as ancient as all time when your children ask, 'Mom, tell us about some of the things you did in the 'Good Old Days.''

"Ah, yes, the 'Good Old Days,' and they were good, even though there was no TV or movies because we couldn't afford the 25 cents it took to see one. Where I lived as a girl there was no electricity. We had to pack the kerosene lamp from one room to the other as we needed it. In the evenings we would all gather around the battery operated radio and listen to our favorite programs.

"We lived about two miles from our one room school house where all the grades were together. Our teacher would let us go down by the creek and do our studying while she taught an older or younger student. Our transportation to and from school was our father's cows which we rode to a pasture by the school and then we rode them home for milking at night. In the winter time we would ski to school.

"What did we do for entertainment? How well I remember one of our favorite past times. We would each get a stick or willow and tie a string on it. On the end of the string we fastened a piece of bread. Then we went fishing for chickens. It was a funny sight, those chickens being led around by a willow and string.

"Another bit of fun was to take turns steering our dad's model 'T' while the rest of the kids pushed. Then we would carefully cover the tracks so we wouldn't be found out.

"How many of the younger generation know about the outhouse, better known as the 'twoholer'? We had one that was quite a distance from the house and it just so happened that mother had a

big red prize rooster. This darn rooster would wait just beyond the house for any unsuspecting victim who was hurrying on his way to the out house. He was a mean one and delighted in challenging us as to which was more important going to the two holer or back to the house where we would do some suffering and dancing until someone a little braver would chase the villain away.

"One day I was the victim and mother heard my screams. She was very angry at this prize rooster. She grabbed a shovel and hit him over the head. There on the ground lay a big beautiful red rooster. Mother picked him up and exclaimed, 'Oh, I've killed him, I've killed him.' Then a thought entered her head and she told me to pump water over his head while she held him. A few cold splashes on his head and he came around. Mother put him on the ground and he staggered around till he made it to the hen coop. She taught that rooster who was boss and he never bothered any of us again as we hurried along the path to the house out back.

"Yes, those were the good old days we reminisce about."

The following 'Peril' was written by Bernice Wright.

"A grandfather can be one of the sweetest and most lovable people that was ever made, yet in a moment he can sure spoil a kid's fun.

"There were six of us ranging in age from six to fourteen years old. We rigged the hay derrick so we could take turns 'seeing around the country side.' We looped a log chain at the tip of the derrick pole. One would take a high ride while the other five pulled the pole high, usually straight up, by use of a rope and pulley. Grandfather came by one day and witnessed the high ride. After that the rope, pulley, and chain disappeared.

"Mother's most effective punishment for us kids was a spanking and putting us to bed.

"We lived on a ranch and out in front was a big pond where the cattle watered. One day my older brother, who was 5 years old, and I (I was 3) decided to take our two year old brother for a wading. He was to his chest and we were still going when mother saw us. Needless to say, two bottoms got paddled and we were sent to bed. I don't know who was the most frightened, us or Mom."

EASTERN IDAHO HISTORICAL SITES

A Lime Kiln In Kelly Canyon

Southeastern Idaho has mineral assets in some abundance which are not found in any other part of the state. One of these minerals is limestone. Limestone is industrially profitable in Bannock, Butte, Blaine, and Bear Lake Counties. This mineral is used in making cement, refining sugar, making plaster, and also for agricultural and poultry purposes.

The following information on Kelly Canyon has come from correspondence between Waldo Morris and DeWayne Wilding. Mr. Morris is one of the men who ran the lime kiln in Kelly Canyon. Mr. Wilding was a member of the Board of Directors of the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society and was working with the Forest Service to make a monument area out of the kiln site in the Kelly Canyon area.

Mr. Morris states, "In very early spring of 1939, Dad was talking to Dick and me. He remarked that in the 1890's he had helped his father operate a lime kiln in Kelly Canyon. We got to wondering if a similar operation could be successful.

"We took 'samples' at a number of places in Kelly Canyon and Lime Kiln Canyon, numbering them as to location. These we had assayed in Salt Lake City. The best report was the one in Lime Kiln Canyon. We staked out a mining claim with the discovery point located at the kiln site.

"We built the kiln ourselves. We bought fire brick from the demolished sugar factory at Rigby to line the inside of the kiln. We used rock from the canyon area for the outside.

"We mined the mountain face back and above the kiln, using star-drills and a double-jack. It was slow work but good exercise.

"We learned to use dynamite and black powder by trial and error. Fortunately the error part never left anyone dangling from a pine tree across the canyon. We bought the dynamite and black powder from Bill Holley at the C.W.& M.

"We had coke trucked in to burn the rock. We mixed the coke and rock as the kiln was filled. When the rock burned out we filled fifty pound, five-ply paper bags and trucked it out.

"There was very little demand for lump lime so the next problem was to get it powdered. We hired a man with a hammer-mill to powder one truck load. It dang near wrecked his

machine so we stopped operations in the late summer of 1940. We sold lime to dealers and building contractors but with our limited capital it just didn't work out."

The Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society was working with the U.S. Forest Service to preserve this site by fencing and putting a marker and information at the kiln site.

Birch Creek Valley Field Trip

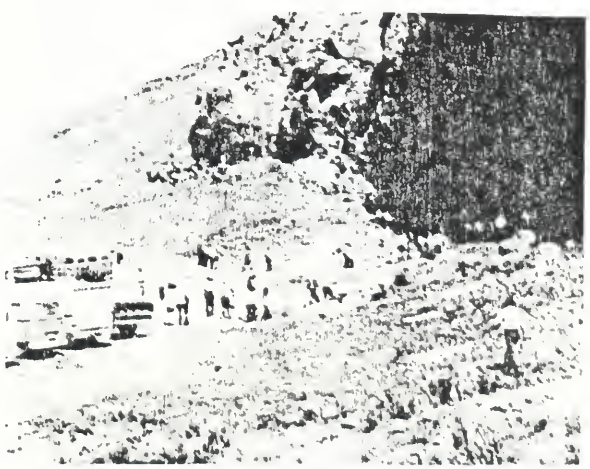
This was a joint venture of the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society, the Idaho State Historical Society, the Bonneville County Historical Society, the Jefferson County Historical Society, The Fremont County Historical Society, and the Bannock County Historical Society.

The Chairman of the event was Mel Wilde and he was helped by Joe Knotwell.

The itinerary of the day called for all to meet at Reno Point some two miles past where the state highways 28 and 22 join. The appointed time was 9:00 a. m. and at that hour many cars and vehicles were crowding the road. At one time there were seventy cars and some 250 people following the guide car to each historical site. The guide was George Barzee.

The first site visited was an abandoned silver mine two miles southeast of Reno Point. The mine was given up early as it played out. Then the owner turned to raising turkeys. Turkeys were big business for a short time but eventually he had to sell his whole flock for about fifty cents apiece.

The caravan then wound across a powdery road several miles to the cemetery of the Reno family. The trip was close to the original trek of pioneers as they made their way west except that this trip was made in cars. It was quite dusty. The cemetery has come into considerable ruin and needs a lot of repair to the fences.



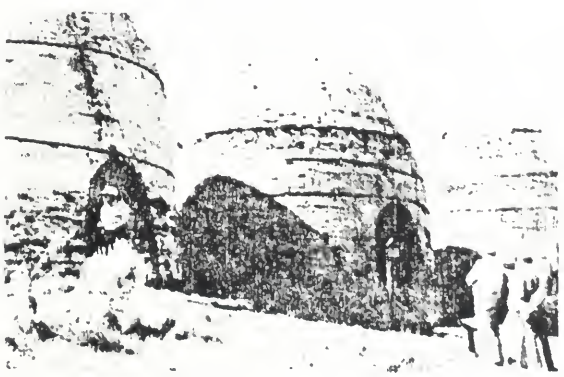
Blue Dome Indian Writings

The Indian writing at Blue Dome were observed and so were the excavation of Idaho State University Archeology Department north of the Blue Dome area.

The tour then turned northward and made its way to the site of the Birch Creek Massacre. This was the site of the Chief Joseph and Nez Perce massacre of some freighters. The wagons were on their way to Salmon with several cases of liquor and some other goods. The Indians happened upon them, and in the course of the day's events the Indians killed all but one of the men. He escaped to tell of the episode.

Nicholia proved to be of great interest. There are only a couple of the original buildings left standing, but the mine can still be seen. Nicholia was named after the manager of the Viola mine, Ralph Nichols. The smelter was located at the mouth of Smelter Canyon and at the foot of the mountain where the mine was. In 1882 the town claimed to have 385 votes on political issues which would have made it larger than Salmon City at that time. It had four grocery stores, two barber shops, one dry goods store, one shoe store, one drug store, ten saloons and several other business buildings. The mining season lasted about six months at this high altitude where winter comes early. When the men could no longer work in the mines they turned to trapping and built themselves cabins in the canyons and out-of-the-way places. The town disappeared with the closing of the mine.

There were twenty-five Chinese living near Nicholia. Their gardens were between Nicholia and Willow Creek and today there is still evidence of the dugouts where they lived on the hillside. Below the sagebrush has grown tall where their lush gardens were tended. The Chinese did much of the washing and some of the cooking in the area. In visiting their cemetery we found their graves had been desecrated by senseless scavengers looking for trinkets or riches.



Charcoal Kilns

The last stop on the tour was at the Charcoal Kilns and pits. They were built in 1883, and the manager and owner was Warren E. King, from Butte, Montana. They were added one after another until there were sixteen standing in a row along the canyon wall. Only four are left standing today. They were made of very light clay and lime which made exceptionally tough, light brick. The lime was burned in nearby kilns and it is said

the bricks were made on the ground. Each kiln cost several thousand dollars to construct. They are about twenty feet in diameter and in height. The walls are a foot or more thick and bound with a number of heavy steel cables. They are well plastered inside and out and set upon a thick stone and brick foundation. All around the kiln small apertures were provided at about waist height to sample the burn. Such holes were sealed with clay during the burning process. A second door, smaller than the door at the bottom was made in the upper part of the kiln towards the hillside where it could be reached easily for loading. The capacity of the charcoal kiln is estimated at forty to fifty cords of wood. It is estimated that there were upwards of 150,000 cords of wood for the kilns and at least two million feet of timber used in the operation. Most of the activity around the kilns took place between 1881-1889.

The trip was a great success and many good comments were given by those attending. Thanks must be given to those who planned and carried out the excursion. Special thanks is given to the late Mrs. Pearl M. Oberg whose book gave background information for the above sketches.

Where Was Fort Henry?

One of the most interesting controversies in Western history is the location of Fort Henry. Because it was the first American fur post west of the Rockies it has some notoriety and fame. Because it was only in existence for a couple of years and was not on any established trade route, its location was not of any particular attention except to those interested in the fur trade history. The discovery of several rocks in different places suggests a group of trappers in desperate need for something to relieve boredom or perhaps modern-day entrepreneurs trying to establish fame for themselves. So little actually happened at the fort that is of historical interest or significance not much has been made of it. As long as the question of the actual location exists there will be some importance connected to the fort.

A well-equipped and well-mounted force of three to four hundred men set out from St. Louis with good reports of large numbers of beaver to be found in the Three Forks area of Montana. Andrew Henry was the field captain for the St. Louis Fur Company. After several harrowing experiences the party arrived at the Three Forks in April, 1810 and immediately set about to build a fort. They chose a site between the Jefferson and Madison Rivers. They had brought their own traps as they were not sure how they would be received by the Indians. It was still the custom at that time to have the Indians do the trapping and then the fur men would trade with them.

As the men set about to trap they were attacked by the Indians. Soon after they were also attacked by grizzly bears. Henry was discouraged with the amount of fur that was gathered with the fear of death upon his men.

In the summer of 1810, Henry divided the remaining trappers into two groups. The smaller group he sent on its way to St. Louis with the furs that they had been able to gather while he led the larger party up the Madison River to seek out new and safer lands to trap. They took with them everything that was needed for the extended hunt. They only thing left at the fort in Montana was an anvil which was to act as a landmark in the years to come.

Henry made his way up the Madison River thinking that he had left all of his Indian problems behind him. He had barely left the Blackfeet lands when they met a group of Crows. These Indians, true to their infamous ways, stole some of the trappers horses. This was a double blow as the horses were not only used for packs but were considered food in times of need.

He continued up the river until he sighted a low divide to the south. He crossed this pass into Idaho and discovered the lake that bears his name today. There has been some discussion as to which way Henry entered Idaho with some saying Reynolds Pass, some saying Targhee Pass, and some saying from the east out of Wyoming along what is now known as the Flagg Ranch road. It is logical from the description of a low pass that only one of the places above will fit. Reynolds Pass is so low that it is not recognized as a pass by many.

At the southeastern end of the lake they found a river that wound its way through the mountains for some fifty miles until it entered a wide valley. The trappers scouted the region on their way down the river and found many streams that were abounding in beaver. Headquarters were decided upon and several buildings were erected. Until recent research brought out relevant and new information the exact site of Fort Henry remained a subject of discussion and argument.

Historians place the site of the fort on the south bank of Henry's Fork of the Snake River some seven miles north of Rexburg, Idaho, and about two hundred yards east of the Salem farm-to-market road. Here in 1937 the Salem Boy Scout Troop erected a monument upon the site of excavations by the Ricks College History Department. The present (1990) site of the fort is abut one hundred yards from the river suggesting that the course of the river has changed since the building of the three small buildings. Many of the springs and marshlands which were near the fort in earlier times have dried up probably because of the great amount of water drawn from the river for irrigation purposes. The trees which may have served as a windbreak for the fort have been felled and the land to the south is farmed extensively.

In 1927 Frank Miller, of St. Anthony, Idaho, interviewed William McMinn, who homesteaded this area in 1881. McMinn had found a gun barrel, an axe, and a piece of homemade chain on his ground, as well as several piles of lava rocks arranged in a semi-circle. McMinn Later dug into this area and came up with ashes and a number of stones. One of the stones was inscribed, "Gov. Camp 1811 - H. Wells," while another stone read, "Al the cook but nothing to cook."

Merrill D. Beal, while a professor at Ricks College, became interested in the problem. With the help of several of his history students he began an excavation of the site. In Dr. Beal's words, "We discovered broken lines of charcoal roughly conforming to a ten by ten foot room with considerable ashes upon a base at a five foot depth. We also found the top of a gallon crock; but the prize find was a river worn basalt rock bearing the inscription, "Fort Henry 1811 by Capt. Hunt."

The men used the post as a central camp for the several months they were in the area. The winter was exceptionally severe making it difficult to stay warm and keep enough food on hand. It is felt that as soon as the country was sufficiently able to be travelled in the men left. Henry gave each in the party the option to leave in the direction they wanted if they chose not to go back the way he was going. One group chose to go south in hopes of finding the Spanish settlements and some warmth. This group has never been heard from since. Another group chose to go due east and they are the group which met with Wilson Price Hunt and guided him back out to the site of the fort. The rest and major portion of the original group went with Henry northeastward to the Yellowstone River and then down to St. Louis.

In 1917 Hazen A. Hawkes of Drummond, Idaho, was one of a group of men camped near Conant Creek working on their water assessment as was the custom by cleaning, mending, and strengthening the local canal that carried water from the creek to their farms. From the canal bank where they were working Hazen and another young man spotted some coyote pups at play in the mouth of their rocky den. With the typical exuberance of youth they decided it would be more fun to dig them out than shovel dirt out of a canal. They not only got the pups but they unearthed a stone with writing on it.

Brushing the dirt away revealed carefully sculptured letters two inches wide and half an inch deep that spelled out the names of Henry and his mountain men. These rang no bells of recognition for the finders at the time but the date 1810 made them realize the importance of their find. They decided to pull the rock to their father to let him examine it. While attempting to carry both the pups and the rock they lost their means of transportation, when one horse became exited and ran off. When they recovered the horse the rock had been lost again and it was not found for some time.

Several years later Hazen was riding through a meadow in the Conant Creek bottom land on the ranch now owned by Percy Nyborg when his horse stubbed his toe. Hazen pulled him up and then glimpsed a rock. The luxuriant wild hay reached the pony's belly and entirely concealed the outcropping. Only because he was on horse back and looking down from a height was it possible for him to get a look at the rock with the light striking it at such an angle that the shallow weather worn carving stood out.

It was the Camp Henry rock. Since early journals recorded that the Hunt expedition had camped on the spot where Henry wintered it was concluded that the site of Fort Henry had been found. A search was started to try to find the original rock.

During the search Mrs. Hawkes uncovered a smaller rock bearing "Henry 1810" on it but it was broken in such a fashion that part of another letter appears to have preceded it. The other letter appears to be an 'A'.

It was thirty-five years after first discovering the original rock that Hazen found it again. He dug it out of the willow tree that had grown up around it and rolled it away from the creek that lapped one side.

Robert Glass Cleland described the kind of country that was used by mountain men when they searched for a site for a camp. He states, "In choosing a site for a winter camp, a trapping party selected a hidden, well watered valley, sheltered as far as possible from wind and snow, remote enough to escape the notice of small bands of roving Indians and sufficiently wooded to afford shelter for the company's horses and mules." Using this description one is led to believe that the fort may have been established on the meadows of Conant Creek.

The fact that seems to run similar to both areas is that Wilson Price Hunt visited the fort that was known as Henry's. He was brought to the site of the fort by men who had spent the winter at the place and so knew beyond any doubt that it was the actual site. It would be simple then to find out what Hunt had to say about the site and then compare it to what was similar in the two existing sites. Simple except that Hunt's journal apparently didn't exist. He kept a journal which was supposedly given to Washington Irving. Irving wrote the book , Fort Astoria, quoting liberally from Hunt's journal. But where was the journal. Story had it that after writing the above book, a fire destroyed Irving's home and all of his material including Hunt's journal. This would seem to lay at rest any efforts to identify the site of Fort Henry as the book Astoria does not include enough material to adequately prove it.

Imagine the surprise of one who was looking for material on mountain men to come across a small book entitled, The Overland Diary Of Wilson Price Hunt. It appears to have been a copy of the original which had been translated into French and then retranslated into English. Here was the coveted book which might supply the answers sought for.

Here was the answer that it provided:

> "The 8th (October, 1811) was cold all day. The wind from the west blew with a fury, and a little snow fell. We reached the fort of Mr. Andrew Henry. It was several small buildings that he constructed in order to spend the winter there. All stand along a tributary of the Columbia about 300 to 450 feet wide. We hoped to navigate it and we found some trees suitable for canoes. By the 9th we had already begun to build eight of them, all from cottonwood. The cottonwood, the aspen, and some small willows are the only trees that thrive in this area."

What a discovery! Fort Henry sat upon the banks of a river 300 to 450 feet wide. It has to be the Snake River. There is nothing in the Conant Creek area to compare anywhere near that size. Conant Creek itself at some points may be as large as 20 feet wide but no where near the 100 yards plus needed for the

above description. These were the words of a man who was there and visited the Fort. The following continues the thought:

> "On the 17th we were all ready to embark...With the cargoes loaded into our canoes, we left this place on the 19th. The force of the current hurried us along at a rapid pace, and we were not long in passing the little river that I mentioned on the 7th. Beyond its confluence with the Mad River it becomes large enough to make navigation possible for canoes of all sizes. Its water is light green. Since it had no name, I gave it one; The Canoe River (Teton River.)"

Here was timber large enough to build canoes and a stream large enough to launch them. The whole party was going to go the rest of the way on the water. The descriptions leave no doubt that they were on the Snake River.

There is little actual proof to substantiate the claim of Fort Henry being situated in the Conant Creek area. It is suspected that the camp was one the five men and possibly others used as a trapping base in their excursions from the main post, as the whole of the Upper Snake River Valley was explored and trapped during this time. With the small amount of beaver that was obtained by the whole group it is probable that the men had much time on their hands and carving on rocks was a pastime. It also has been suggested that the rocks would have helped any future claim to the area by the United States as they were in competition with several other countries for the territory. It is remarkable that such a small body of men in an area for such a short time left more rocks with names and hints than are found on practically any other site in history. The appearance of any more rocks might give rise to other reasons than the actual chipping of messages by the early explorers.

Teton Valley History

The following story was told by Thomas Murphy to Wendell C. Gillette.

"I, Tom Murphy, am now seventy-eight years and four months old (1972). I was born in Idaho Falls at the time it was called Eagle Rock. I was five years and nine months old when I came to Teton Valley in the year of 1888, driving a few head of cows behind a wagon, which carried my parents, a sister Ann, and a brother David. Martin, an older brother, rode a horse to drive the cows.

"Father had been in the Valley previously putting up hay on a portion of ground which had been owned by a family named Scafe. The only building on this ground, of almost two hundred acres, was a small horse stable about twelve feet by fourteen feet. We moved into this building to make our home on the 28th day of July, 1888.

"When we arrived at the Teton River, the cattle were so thirsty they jumped into the stream to quench their thirst. This was somewhere near the present Harrop Bridge. After the cattle had drunk they crossed the stream and began to feed. The pasture was up to their bellies. I got into the wagon while we forded the stream.

"After crossing the stream we stopped for the night by a little spring on the Dave Breckenridge ranch. On the following morning we went south up the Valley to where our future home was to be on the Scafe place. Today it is known as the Charley Allen property where Marion Mangum now lives.

"The names of the families who were here in the Valley at that time were: Dave Breckenridge, Ebenezer Seymore, the Scafe family, the Carpenter family, Charley Powell, Billy Green. The following year some other people came. Their names were Charley Smith, Bill Spears, Charley and Steve Foster, Jim Davis, and Lum Nickerson. Nickerson had a daughter who later married a man by the name of Vail. He operated a saloon in Victor.

"The third year many more people arrived to make their homes here. Their names were Don Driggs, William Rigby, Thone Pratt, and Tom Wilson. The two latter men built the first store in Teton Valley known as the Star Commercial.

"The first winter our family contracted scarlet fever. Father had built a little addition on the stable house which had a little cellar hole dug underneath for storing some vegetables. Three of the children had the fever but I was lucky and did not get it. This was a very light winter. There was never over a foot of snow on the ground at one time, however, it was very cold.

"Father had gone back that summer and worked in the Rexburg area on a threshing machine which he had bought half interest in. We had a goodly store of grain and flour for that winter plus dried fruits, beans, potatoes, and some sugar. With the stock and wild game we had plenty of meat. Our cows furnished milk so our eating was simple but good.

"The porcupines were very numerous here in the Valley during these first years. We boys killed at least a hundred a year for a number of years. We used the grease for harness leather, shoes, and making soap. In rendering out a porcupine we would often eat some of the best of the meat after it was cooked.

"I have many times seen coyotes kill these animals by jumping on the ground and when the porcupine raised his tail to strike, the coyote would tip him over and grab him by the throat. In a short time there would be nothing left but a quill hide.

"The first year we came here we found an old No. 4 trap that possibly had been lost by some of the early beaver trappers. The brand name, which was imprinted on the pan of the trap was, Holly and Norton. After cleaning it up so it would work, we set out to trap muskrats. We worked the stream near the house. By the time spring came father took the hides to Eagle Rock and there were one hundred forty-four hides at about ten cents each. All were caught with this one trap.

"About the only way possible that we acquired any spending money was this means and to tan deer and antelope hides. We took them to Eagle Rock where it was possible to get as much as four

dollars for a good big hide. Usually we only got from two to three dollars each.

"The Indians often spent much time camping here in the Valley during the summer months picking berries, jerking meat, etc. Many times a good, big camp was on our ranch near the cold water springs which are still on the property. After a season of curing meat and piling it there would often be several large piles ten feet high, six feet wide, and twenty-five feet long. When they loaded the horses out in the fall to leave there would be as many as one hundred twenty-five horses with packs in big bundles strapped on their backs. They also filled big blankets with dried currants tied at the corners and balanced. These were to be carried for miles into the Fort Hall country.

"I can remember many times as I watched the Indians leave the Valley for the winter how their horses were fit into shaves with two poles tied together with a large hide tied across the poles. These were pulled from the saddle horn. On this stretched hide other hides were pulled, as well as camp equipment. On top of all this, usually a Papoose sat. The horses would string out in a long line as they followed a given trail. Squaws rode the horses which were pulling the travois. There was, probably, a string of fifty in a line.

"Father had an old 41 caliber revolver which became a nuisance to my mother as it was always a mystery to us children. On one occasion when the Indians were around she decided to trade it off to them so that she might rid herself of the worry. After some trafficking with them she settled for two blankets and a bundle of buckskin. Needless to say, when father came home, there were a few words that night in the old horse stable house.

"Father and Mother had six children born here in the Teton Valley making eleven children in all born to this union. They lost one son just younger than I who is buried at Lyman, Idaho, where we lived before coming to Teton Valley.

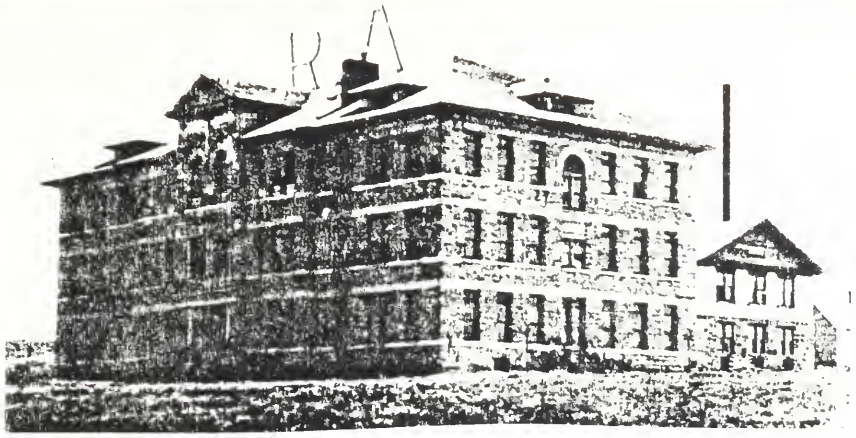
"My sister, Lizzy Woolstenhulme, was the first white female child born in Teton Valley. She is the wife of the late Sam Woolstenhulme and still lives in Driggs, Idaho. We arrived here on July 28, 1888 and she was born on the 15th of October of that year giving mother a new baby to care for that first winter in the Valley.

"My father, Gideon Murphy, was the first blacksmith in the Valley. Many people came to our ranch for iron work. He was so proficient in his work that he would often build machinery over completely as there was no chance of getting parts in those days. The work became so time consuming that he finally moved to Victor and established a regular shop.

"I had the privilege of doing considerable work in the construction of the Victor Ward Church house which was built in the year of 1911. I was employed by the Blackburn Brothers to cut rock. During the time of construction I cut over three hundred running feet of rock. The stone axe I used was made by Billy Thompson who had the Blacksmith shop here at that time.

"Now in my declining years after many years of good health, as I have never been real ill, I am happy to have had the experience I have had in helping to establish this Teton Valley

and my love and prayers will always be that nothing but the best shall come to this beautiful place."



EASTERN IDAHO PIONEERS

The Groom Homestead: Garfield's First Cabin

The following story was written by Henry Groom and first appeared in Volume 3 Number 1 of the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society Quarterly.

"The beginning of the first little log cabin built in Garfield was in 1886 when Henry W. Groom came to Eagle Rock (now Idaho Falls) from South Cottonwood, Utah.

"When the Groom family came from England to Utah, they were in need of a home. Harry (Henry,) came to Idaho to work a team of horses so that the family might have something to start farming with. He worked for Webb Huffacker from the fall of 1886 to July, 1887.

"On April 9th, 1888 Nathan and Harry came to Idaho to find a home. Coming through Ross Fork of the Snake River the sand was so deep that three spokes of the wagon wheels were buried. Upon their arrival in Eagle Rock they were confronted with a rainy and very cold spring. They stayed at the home of Webb Huffacker, a distance of 13 miles from Eagle Rock, for three days. They then journeyed to Lewisville. At Lewisville they became acquainted with Mack Boyce who lived in a little log cabin. They stayed with this family overnight.

"As they had come to the Snake River Valley for a home, they started to look over this sage brush tract which took in the territory from Willow Creek (now Ucon) to Lewisville. Through this section plenty of wild life was in evidence consisting of coyotes, sage hens, jack rabbits, badgers, owls, cottontails, hares, molly rabbits, horned toads, scorpions, and mosquitoes. Life was made miserable by the great abundance of mosquitoes. These pests abounded in swarms in the Market Lake (now Roberts) territory. Trains coming in to Eagle Rock would bring in millions of them.

"The place to locate that the Groom boys had in mind was in the Shelton territory near the Lovell farm. When they looked it up it had already been filed upon. Being acquainted with Neil McMillan and Charles Boyce who had taken up land in what is now Garfield they were advised to look around in that vicinity. A man by the name of Richardson had taken up the Bramwell place (Huers now.) At this time there were no houses in this sage brush tract.

"The Groom property was taken up in 1888. There was at this time a substation at Eagle Rock with a man by the name of W.H. Crow, in charge of the Land Office. Papers were drawn up and the land filed upon. This land was 160 acres located just east of the Neil McMilland land (now the Holland property.)

"The boys grubbed sage to make their camp. That night they killed a jack rabbit and having no water to wash it Nate put it in a camp kettle and with a bucket walked out to the Dan Adams place to get water to drink and to wash the rabbit. This well was three miles from their camp. Walking back through the tall sagebrush with the open bucket and kettle it was well seasoned with sage when they reached camp. This night Harry took the horses to the Lewisville canal, about six miles from camp, for water. The nearest place to water their horses was at Willow Creek on the south or the Lewisville canal on the north.

Having plenty of homemade molasses at home they brought a keg full with them from Utah. They were badly in need of something to haul water in and this keg, they decided, would be just the thing. But they didn't know what to do with the molasses. So Molasses was traded for anything they could get and finally the keg was emptied.

"Now the next thing was to build a cabin for shelter. They decided to haul logs for this purposes. Their belonging were taken to the Lew Huffacker home three miles south and left for safe keeping. With their team and running gears they went to the 'rush beds' on the Snake River, a distance of 16 miles, to get logs. It took two days to make one trip and it required several trips to obtain enough logs to build a cabin. At this time there were no bridges so all streams had to be forded.

"There were three canals at this time, the Anderson, the Eagle Rock, and the Burgess. There was plenty of water in them. The cabin was to be built of cottonwood logs. While in the 'rush beds' cutting down trees, Nate hurt his thumb throwing it out of joint. He had to be his own doctor and he put it back in place. Sometimes they would work and get out more logs than they could haul at one time so they would mark them and pile them up. Many were stolen.

"Finally the cabin was started. Nate crushed his thumb badly while they were building it. This was very painful and somewhat slowed up the work. The little cabin when completed was about ten by twelve feet with a window in the south and a door in the north. It had a dirt roof. When one entered the door he had to step down to the floor. The boys father, Nathan Groom Sr. and his cousin, George Ayers, came up from Utah and assisted in building the cabin. They returned to Utah leaving the boys in Idaho.

"This was the only cabin from Willow Creek to Lewisville. It was so low and the sage brush so high, that in order to find it a pole was put up at one end with a sack tied to it. It was built in the spring of 1888. This was the first house in the Garfield district.

"The pioneering of these young men in a new country called for lots of grit and determination. Along with other discomforts they often had to put up with balky horses. They

sang songs and played a harmonica and an accordion for amusement. At night a bon-fire was made to drive the mosquitoes away. Around this fire they would make the air vibrate with their music and singing.

"The wild bunch grass throughout this section grew a foot high and many settlers depended upon this for feed. Their horses wintered upon it. During the winter of 1888 and 1889 the thermometer reached forty and fifty degrees below zero with snow so deep you could not walk. When leaving the cabin the boys always took a gun with them to kill a rabbit or something else to eat. When weather conditions permitted they spent their time grubbing sage. About this time they had a colt die. They buried it but the coyotes dug it up. The colt was then poisoned and six coyotes and a big spotted dog were killed the first night. They then burned the dead coyotes. Their dog Rover ate some of the burned coyote meat and it poisoned him.

"In the spring of 1890 Nate returned to south Cottonwood, Utah, and brought his bride, Mary C. Godfrey Groom, home to live in the little log cabin in Idaho."

Rebecca Brown Mitchell

The following story is an autobiographical sketch written by Mrs. Mitchell in 1974 for the Snake River Echoes, Volume 3 Number 4. This volume is out of print because of the destruction by the Teton Flood in 1976.

"The pictures of ideal characters in fiction even under the most artistic hand, or the power of the greatest imagination, can never surpass in portraiture or characteristics the reality of individual experience. Thinking people are loath to give out to the world their sacred experiences, hidden away within the Holy of Hollies of their lives, where none dare intrude.

"This is true in all stages of civilized society, even under the most prosperous conditions, and much more so, when bitter disappointments and bereavements over-shadow the best years of life. So we shut in our heartaches and give out our sunshine to our fellow-passengers along our Pilgrim journey.

"On a bleak January day, in the year 1834, a third daughter came as guest to a farmer's home in central Illinois. There Rebecca Brown Mitchell grew to womanhood, it was a lovely place in which to grow. On one side of the farm house a beautiful forest of young timber grew up to the door where grapevine swings and wild flowers abound, so dear to every child of nature, while singing birds charmed them through the duties of the day....

"....From this Christian home I went in my nineteenth year to be a farmer's wife, but only a few years passed when death entered the home and took the husband and father from my side, though I was but a child in experience, yet now I must take a woman's responsibility with a world to face alone. It was at that time when coming in personal contact with existing conditions, that I was awakened and took in the legal restrictions of my sex, which has been as a fire shut up in my bones, permeating my whole being and making me what I am along

the lines of independent thought, and willingness to endure hardness, that citizenship for women might be won....

"....I sought the path of duty and opportunity along the lines of the church, but was hedged out by public opinion and sex prejudice from active service into which the Lord called me. When my two boys were grown and married, I went to a missionary training school in Chicago for a few months, preparation for work, and in June, 1882, turned my face towards the Great Unknown West, not knowing the whereabouts of my final destination, but was led by God, and so I found myself in Idaho, in the town of Eagle Rock, now Idaho Falls, coming as a self-supporting missionary of the Baptist Church.

"What this new territory was at that time, can hardly be understood by people in the Old World, a pat of the Great American Desert as given in our geographies of forty years ago, but the kiss of nature has transformed the desert into fruitful fields, dotted with thousands of homes, and many schools of high grade as well as primary. Through this wild country, the home of the Redman, came a few trappers and hunters, who were largely squaw men, and miners heading to the great mining country to the north. This road crosses the Snake River at this point. The banks of the river are solid walls of lava rock, and the river looks like a great crack in the earth made by an earthquake while in some places it is claimed that the bottom cannot be found, the current is very swift, dashing the water upon the rocks with such force that it lashes it into foam and roars like the sea. The town was then a row of company houses, built by railroad employees, with shanties here and there, besides a few business houses and the ever-present saloon plying its trade.

"It was the morning of June 5th, 1882, when I stepped from the train, and into the new world. No hotel or furnished room could be found where I could find shelter and rest, all day long I waded the sand shoe top deep in some places, going from house to house, where I found a welcome, but no room. Late in the afternoon I found a shanty that I could rent, which had been used for a saloon, into which my daughter and I gladly moved our trunks and were at home, amid such surroundings that a change of world could hardly be greater. I bought a candle, and for a candlestick used an empty beer bottle. After sweeping out the room, I spread a comfort on the bare floor for a bed, and committing our souls and bodies to the care of the ever-present Father, we slept the sleep that faith alone can give.

"I found no church or church organization on this line of road from Ogden, Utah to Butte, Montana, a distance of four hundred miles. Neither tree, nor grass, nor bird was to be seen on the streets, but sand, sand, everywhere, but when the sandstorms came, it was beyond description. My first work was a day and Sunday school, which I named Providence Mission, because by unexpected and unplanned journeys the Lord had transplanted me into this needy field. As nothing better could be found, I transformed my shanty into a chapel and schoolroom of the most primitive kind imaginable, having no furniture save two benches, which served at night for a bedstead and by day for seats for the larger pupils, each having a box in front for a desk. The

smaller children had two boxes, one for a seat and one for a desk, but how those children did study, making progress notwithstanding the want of everything needful in the way of equipment. I never halted, doubted or hesitated, accepting every privation without murmuring or looking back to the world left behind with regret. My motto was 'all things are possible to him that believeth' (Mark 9:23.

"Before the end of the first month my purse was empty, the cost of living was much more than expected. I had sent home for funds, but the expected remittance had not arrived. My daughter had been sick and craved some pickles. I had given her the last nickel with the assuring promise on my lips: 'The Lord will provide.' That very day at noon, a prominent railroad man and a patron of my school, (Frank Reardon,) who had laughed at me for saying 'Providence Mission' came and handed me the tuition for his boy. I said with choked emotion, 'Mr. R., why did you do this? Did you know that I had spent the last cent, and now you come and pay your tuition before it is due. What do you call this but the Lord's direct provision for our need?' He said, 'It does look like it,' and ever after while he remained in this country, he and his family gave me many a comforting word, and more substantial help."

The rest of the Rebecca Brown Mitchell story can be read in one of the libraries carrying the Snake River Echoes. It is also in the Teton Flood Museum Library in its entirety.

Alexander Toponce: Pioneer Freighter

The following material first appeared in the winter issue of the Snake River Echoes, Volume 3 Number 2. The author, Mr. J.P. Wilde, is a well known historian of Idaho.

"History of the Upper Snake River Valley, or for that matter, all of southeastern Idaho cannot be complete without recognition of the part that Alexander Toponce played in its development.

"Toponce began as a freighter, promoted roads, stage lines, mail service and became one of the states earliest cattlemen of note.

"Born in Belfort, France in 1839, he arrived in Idaho leading a wagon train during the winter months of 1863 from the gold mines near Leadville, Colorado to those near Virginia City, Montana-one of the few recorded winter time journeys over the Oregon Trail by a large group of men.

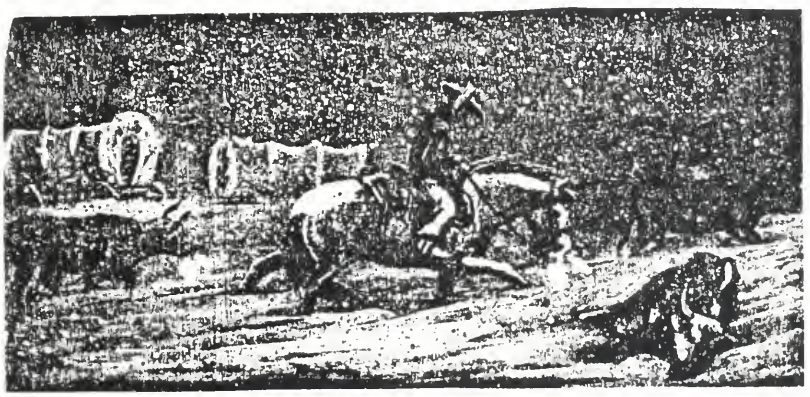
"By mid April, after nearly two full months of effort, the wagon train of 180 people arrived at Fort Connor at Soda Springs. On May 9th, they reached the Gibson Ferry near Blackfoot and joined forces with a Utah group who had been fighting Indians for eight days and were pinned down on the banks of the Snake River. The outfit, owned by Livingston and Bell of Salt Lake City, had over twenty women and children in it.

"Upon arriving in Montana, Toponce began a freighting business that plied its trade primarily between Salt Lake and Montana. As such, he came heavily in contact with our area. In

1864 while attempting to freight flour and a large herd of cattle to Montana he was caught in a severe November blizzard at the Sand Hole near present day Dubois and was forced to leave his six wagons there for the winter. In an effort to save his cattle he moved them to the river bottoms at Big Island, near St. Anthony. Spring found most of his flour ruined and only one of his 175 head of cattle alive.

"The following year, he nearly lost his life near Malad when another wagon train was stranded by an early blizzard. His animals froze to death standing up and Toponce was forced to walk 45 miles to Fort Call (Brigham City, Utah) for help.

"Monida Pass always proved a difficult section of his route. Frequently during the winter months, he cut aspen trees, making runners for his wheels and moved the wagons as sleds.



Perils of Freighting

"In 1872, he applied for the right to rent a 40 mile by 70 mile portion of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. After being granted the rental at $2500 per year he, in conjunction with a partner, William Sloan, put over 10,000 head of cattle on the reservation, many of which he trailed through the Montana route to the ranches of Johnny Grant, former proctor of Old Fort Hall. Grant owned a huge cattle ranch near Deer Lodge, Montana, where he provided beef to the Montana mining camps.

"In addition to his regular freighting routes, Toponce remained in the cattle business until 1879 when he suddenly sold out to a cattle concern from Nevada and went into mining in the Custer County area. With four partners, he constructed a 30 mile toll road between Challis and Bonanza and on the following year he began a stagecoach line from Blackfoot to Challis with spur lines running to Salmon, Arco, Bellevue, and Hailey. Daily his stages travelled over 250 miles at an average speed of 6 1/2 miles per hour.

"For many years Toponce freighted between Salt lake and Challis with occasional trips through Birch Creek to the Salmon, Leadore, and Lemhi areas. At 14 cents per pound he freighted most of the $4.5 million dollars worth of gold and silver bullion from the Custer mines. Melted into bars, each bar weighted 125 pounds and valued as much as $3000.

"It was Toponce wagons operated by Jim Hayden that were involved in the battle with Chief Joseph's forces on Birch Creek in which the drivers were killed by the Indians and the wagons burned.

"Hardly a village developed along the Snake or Bear River without freight hauled by Toponce wagons between the years of 1863 and 1885.

"He figured prominently in the early financing of the Wood Livestock Company and was actually the best man at the wedding of David Wood and Mrs. Murphy, the area hotel manager who became the female head of the Wood Land and Livestock dynasty.

Mrs. R. L. Speelmon - Mud Lake Pioneer

The following article is by the Speelmon Family as told to Mildred Staley and appeared in Volume 4, Number 2 & 3, Snake River Echoes.

"My husband was a stockman and we were vary prosperous in our early married life. We enjoyed life to the fullest. In 1919-20 a severe winter storm took all of our stock and we had loaned a good deal of money out. We were forced to mortgage our place trying to save our cattle. We had a few horses left by spring which we shipped to Denver to sell. They didn't sell for enough to pay the freight. We lost our holdings in Montana. However, we had invested some money in property in Mud Lake, Idaho, so in October, 1923, we moved to Idaho and started from scratch. I had my youngest child, who was then a small baby, with me when we moved to Mud Lake.

"We rented a little house and lived in it until spring. We burned sage brush for fuel. My husband worked for the Woods Livestock all winter. During the winter we bought a three room house by Lidy Hot Springs and the neighbors helped us move it on to our ground at Mud Lake.

Rabbit Drive

"I followed my husband around and cooked for the hay crew while he contracted stacking hay. I did nursing as we lived fifty miles from the nearest town of any size and it was

especially hard to get a doctor. I delivered babies and did all other kinds of nursing. From those that could pay I took money and from those that couldn't, I didn't charge.

"We put up a sign 'Meals 50 cents' and I made a living cooking for tourists and transit labor. The roads were so bad in those days people were unable to travel and many were caught in the position that they had to spend the night with us. Many was the time the floor was full of people. I would give them a comforter to roll up in and they slept on the floor. Every winter until the power line and highway was completed, my husband put up ice. I raised chickens in an old car body and we would freeze a freezer of ice cream and fry chickens."

Grandma and Grandpa Speelmon celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on June 3, 1946. All 10 of their children were present and together for the first time in their lives. At this time there were 22 grandchildren present and one great-grandchild. Great-Grandma Speelmon passed away on May 4, 1960, at Terreton, Idaho.

The Beards and Their Oxen

This article was first published in the Snake River Echoes, Volume 5, Number 4. It was written by Tamie Jardine of Teton Valley.

"With a brass band, the immigrants could have made better time, for oxen, however heavily laden, step out to musical strains.

"The Beards of Teton Basin, Idaho, with 24 head broken to the yoke, have no trouble in street parades, even on hot days, because the music is always snappy. Minus a tune, oxen, whip or no whip, take their time. After all, they seem to think tomorrow will just be another day for lugging something big and creaky like a wagon.

"True, biting flies will have the same enlivening effect on pulling steers as thumping drums, but they are available only in season, and they come and go, making for a highly irregular gait.

"To prove this was the light young yoke of oxen broken by the late James Thomas Beard of the basin, father of Henry, Dave, Tom, Joe, Dick, and Elmer Beard who have carried on as ox-masters. Without any kind of encouragement, the oxen would gladly stroll all the way from the Beard ranch to Driggs, 7 miles, and they would do even better on the return trip.

"Most oxen, you see, amble along a bit faster when headed home where feed, shelter, and rest await. Therein was part of the cause of the drag-along of the plains crossers. The farther the plodding oxen got from home, the more they knew they'd never get back.

"...The family history of the Beard family is so interwoven with the association of their animal partners that to divorce family and beasts would entail family adjustments that would require no trivial revision of life patterns.

"It was the ox team that brought the grandfather and father of the Beard brothers, 7 brothers, a thousand miles across the

arid plains from Kansas to an L.D.S. settlement in Utah. An eight week journey on a stormy ocean had brought the family of emigrants from England to America...

Logging with Paddy and Jake in 1955

"...The grandfather states that the party traveled along the Platte River for hundreds of miles. After they moved beyond the river there was no available fuel except the buffalo chips which the travelers gathered in sacks along the way.

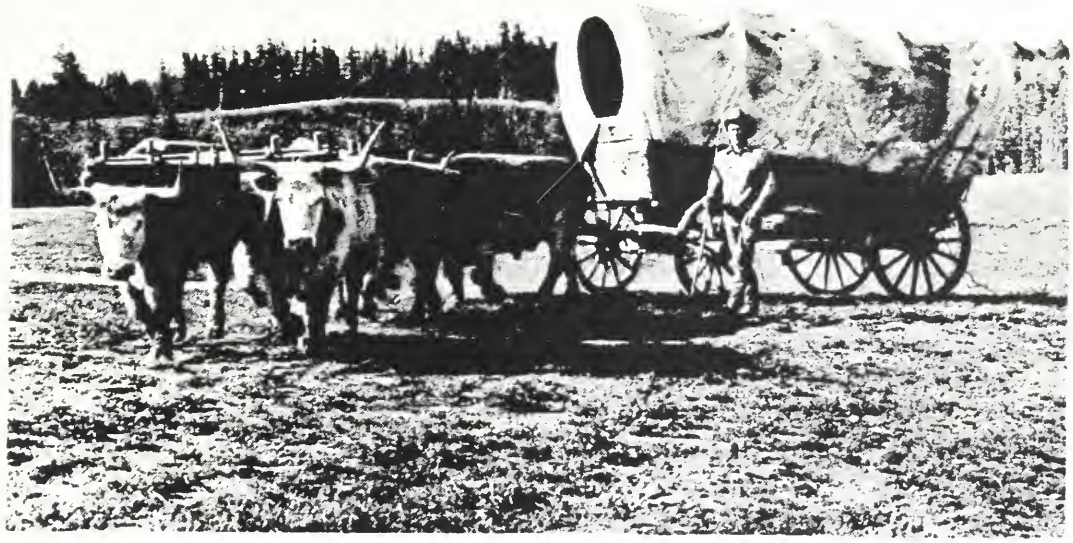
"...After a few years (in Utah) father decided that he wanted to move to Idaho. He and mother came here in May, 1900 buying a place on the Teton River at Little Hog Hollow from Phillip Shane for $1,500. At last they had reached their goal.

"...Dave, who gathered a rather extensive history of the family, states that the following June his father moved his entire possessions to their new Idaho home. They came through Echo Canyon, on to Bear lake where they camped for 4 or 5 days while the oxen were given time to recover from salt poisoning along the wagon trail.

"...Back at their new home the Beards started clearing ground and planting grain, using their oxen and horses. That fall the father took his oxen to the Fogg and Jacobs lumber mill on the Butte near Marysville and skidded logs with the oxen teams. Until late winter the father remained at this job to augment the family income.

"The father also worked for Morris and Gilmore at the mouth of Warm River where it empties into the Snake River. Here he worked for several years skidding logs into the river. In 1908 he brought a sawmill and set up on Bitch Creek, then later on Tepee Creek. The family hauled lumber to St. Anthony, Teton, Sugar City, and Newdale for canal work and the Bridge across the Teton River. They sold lumber for $4 per thousand feet.

"During the summer of 1910 the family moved their mill to Teton Basin establishing themselves on South Leigh Creek. For 3 years the family spent their summers here and winters at East Wilford, then they bought their Teton Basin ranch about 5 miles from the sight of their mill."



Beard's Oxen

There is more to the story of the Beards and their oxen in this issue of the Echoes. Copies can be found in most libraries of the Upper Valley.

Mayhew Hillman

This article first appeared in the Snake River Echoes, Volume 5, Number 1 in 1976. There was no author listed in the story but they did a fine job in collecting and making this story available.

"Mayhew Hillman was born June 23, 1861, at Fort Harriman, Utah. He was the sixth child of six children born to Ira King and Mary P. Hillman.

"When Mayhew was six years old, his father, Ira King Hillman, died of pneumonia brought on by exposure. He has worked all night trying to stop a stream that had broken its banks and was flooding his field.

"So his mother, Mary P. Hillman, was left to rear her six children without their father. Mayhew always loved, admired, and respected his wonderful mother.

"When he was thirteen years old he was 'bull-whacking,' driving oxen on a freight wagon. He was a good driver. His step-father trusted him to drive his freight wagon and told his own son King to watch 'Hoot,' as Mayhew was called, if he wanted to learn to drive.

"Mayhew drove a freight wagon from Corrine, Utah, to Silver bow, Montana. He hauled all kinds of freight for grocery stores, and loaded back with silver bullion. He also hauled wool for sheep men.

"Mayhew said in the Portneuf Canyon he would turn his mules loose at night. The Indians would steal them, hide them, then show up, and offer to tell him where they were for a dollar, which he paid many times.

"When he stopped at night while freighting many times he would make a good bonfire and when the coals were just right he would put beans, bacon, salt and water in his kettle. He would

then place the lid on and bury it in the coals. By morning he could have delicious baked beans from his improvised dutch oven. This was good when eating on the trail.

"Very often snakes bothered him. Once he awakened to find a rattler under his pillow. On another occasion he found a rattle snake in his boot when he went to put it on.

"He learned that a snake would not crawl over a new rope, so he always strung a new rope around his bed before going to sleep.

"Once he met a man, driving a freight wagon, who was beating one of his horses unmercifully. The man said, 'I'll trade this horse for any one you've got. I never want to see him again.' Mayhew had a blind horse. He said, 'All right, you unhook your horse and hook it in place on my wagon and I'll unhook mine and put it in place of yours.' They made the change and both of them went on. He often wondered what that man said when he discovered he had traded for a blind horse. Mayhew said the animal he got was a good worker and never gave him any trouble.

"Once when he was driving his ten-mule team on a freight wagon across the Snake River bridge by the Buttes, he had a near accident. The bridge had no sides on it. One mule was nervous; it shied and came right back through the center of the others. He thought he would never get them straightened out again.

"Joe Brown freighted with him. One morning they woke up and found an old skunk and her little ones in bed with them.

"He and Joe Brown came to Egin Bench Country and made camp at dark. The next morning he opened the flaps of the wagons and exclaimed, 'Look Joe, this is the most beautiful country you ever say.' The rising sun was shining on grass waist high waving in the breeze. The country was level all around. He said, 'I'm promising myself that someday I'll come back and live here.'

"They were camped just a half mile from the farm he later bought. Joe Brown also came to live just a few miles away.

Mayhew "Hoot" Hillman

"They went on to St. Anthony to deliver their freight. Upon arriving they pulled on the scales to weight the loads of oats at Dad Moon's store. Dad Moon walked around their wagons. Joe Brown had ten head of mules and so did Mayhew. Dad moon said, 'This is the outfit that will build this St. Anthony Canal.'

Mayhew answered, 'No, you are mistaken, these mules stay on the freight wagon.

"Now, various farmers had teams on the ditcher and it was really a lug. The large ditcher was too heavy for the horses, which were not working well together. These men were discontented and were quarreling among themselves, thinking they were working too hard.

"At Dad Moon's insistence they hooked the mules onto the ditcher. Then they picked out an object they were to dig into. The mules pulled the ditcher in a straight line and they pulled it with ease. The men were pleased.

"Mayhew left Joe for five days to run the ditcher while he rode a horse over to Wyoming to see if they could get any freighting there.

"When he got there he learned the mines were closed down. Then he went back to Soda Springs to see if they could get a freighting job there. They thought they would starve to death if they stopped freighting. He couldn't get a job. So returning, they built the St. Anthony Canal which is the largest canal on Egin Bench. It now runs 25,000 inches of water. It has an early right of 35,000 inches. They also helped to build the Idaho Canal at Idaho Falls.

"In the fall of 1887, Mayhew Hillman and his wife came to Plano, Idaho, to live. They had one three year old son, Russel, and a year old baby daughter, Maud.

"They moved into a one room log house with a dirt floor. A blanket served for a door. They had no window panes, so they had to hang covers over the windows. When the wind blew, it would blow sand into the house. When Mayhew asked his wife, 'How do you like it?' She answered, 'It is just lovely.' She never complained.

"That first fall the man they got the place from had two corn cribs full of corn. They had no other food. The horses, cows, pigs, and chickens all ate corn and they were all fat and did well.

"Later, after they had a floor in their log room, Elizabeth set the hot cake bowl on the step. When she picked it up a skunk had carried the spoon under the house.

"She turned a sack of dirty socks out on the steps to wash. When she came to pick them up the skunks had taken them under the house.

"Mayhew not only had his own land, but rented three hundred and twenty acres near St. Anthony. He would get out of bed at 3:00 a.m. to go to work planting, irrigating, and harvesting. He broadcast the seed by hand, and cut and bound the grain by hand. He cleaned much sage brush land.

"In the fall he would haul his grain to Market Lake, which is now Roberts, to sell it. He would arise early and get to market Lake first, so he could bring freight back to St. Anthony stores, thus making the trip pay both ways. He was always a lover of well bred cattle and horses. He had a herd of herefords and a fine driving team. He had good teams of work horses.

"He was an honest man and his word was good as his bond. He always helped the poor and the needy. He gave of his means to

the widows and to the orphans. He donated generously to the Church.

"He and his wife believed in teaching their children to work, to be honest and thrifty.

"He was the President of the Henry's Lake Reservoir Association for many years. He was one of the men who built the dam itself. He was also the President of the Independent Canal for years.

"He served on the Rexburg Fair board and as a member of the City Council. He was a director and Vice-President of the Rexburg State Bank. He was also a director in the Commercial Bank of St. Anthony.

"Death came to Mayhew Hillman on December 21, 1947, at his home in Rexburg, Idaho."

EASTERN IDAHO COMMUNITIES - PART III

Mud Lake - A Land of Contrasts

The following information was compiled by Julie Gay Gerard and finished August 18, 1963. It was printed previously in the Snake River Echoes, Volume 4, Number 2 & 3 in 1975.

"Primitive, well developed, municipal, rural, sophisticated, whimsically; although paradoxically, these words describe the people and temperament of a land curiously named 'Mud Lake.' A land of mysterious desert, plenteous sage brush, and stunning sunsets, it is and the story it bears, dear to the hearts of many.

"There were sand dunes, lava beds, and sage brush everywhere except in the swamp tracts. A large shallow sheet of murky water was the sight of the early comers. Wild mud hens, ducks, and geese perpetually milled around the body of water stirring it to cloudiness. Another name could not have more suitably been given then, for this body of water was indeed a 'mud lake.'

"Willard Adams wrote, 'From all available records, the first man to leave a report of the Mud Lake area was John Colter, who visited this area early in 1808. He told of the small lake that seemed to sink away in the late fall and the enormous herds of buffalo feeding in the large grassy area. The next report is from Captain Bonneville, who left his Christmas camp with the Nez Perce on the north fork of the Salmon River in 1832 to look for lost trappers and to inspect the much talked of Three Buttes. Many Indian stories were going the rounds of the great Godin (Lost River) Plains. As he and his party came over John Day's Defile (Gilmore Divide) on John Day Creek (Birch Creek), the snow was deep and their meat supply was low. They could see the dark herds of buffalo to the east and going to this area, they filled their larder with choice buffalo steaks and their horses secured feed from the high bounty of grass and lake bottom.'

"Mud Lake held very little water in the times of the first comers. George Walker of Arco told of the necessity of dividing a herd of cattle for watering, one half to be watered at night and the other in the morning. They were being driven from Roberts to Arco in 1900.

"The first permanent settler in Mud Lake was Horace R. Jackett with his son, Frank, in 1901. Mr. Jackett, who formerly operated a rooming house in Pocatello, then the Roberts Hotel in

Roberts, was attracted to Mud Lake by the appearance of springs and ponds of water which emerged from a previously dry land of sage brush around the turn of the century.

"The goal of the early settlers was to survive a livelihood of farming and stock raising. They experienced hardship in this new land. Many of the farms were flooded in the spring. Hay, needed for the horses, was outrageously high in price and had to be hauled from Roberts or the Lost River area. Often it was necessary for the farmers to seek employment elsewhere. They tried coyote and rat trapping, horse breaking, cow punching, mine work, ranch work, and other such jobs.

"In the early eighties, Mud Lake was merely a more or less intermittent pond, never covering more than a few hundred yards. After irrigation began on the Egin Bench, southwest of St. Anthony, water was noticed standing in pools one mile north of the present site of Hamer. From 1899 to 1908, the lake rose very little, however, sloughs and springs did appear between Mud Lake and Hamer.

"From 1908 to 1914 the lake rose about five feet and in 1908 the first water filing was made on Mud Lake for irrigation. The next filing was on the northwest part of the lake. Overflow from the Jefferson Reservoir and springs from the east caused the construction of a reservoir for irrigation.

"A 1914 survey showed a water surface of approximately 14,200 acres. The Department of the Interior estimated that there was 150,000 acres of water in 1921.

"The amount of ducks surrounding the lake at that time was great. Jack Gerard reports, 'You wouldn't believe me if I could explain how many ducks were here then!' Sage hens and a variety of wild fowl were more numerous than now, as were mountain lions, coyotes, and wolves.

"The first cutting of wild hay was in 1907 by Bill Owsley, Horace Jackett, and others in Mud Lake. The first grain was raised in 1912 and the first alfalfa hay in 1913.

"As farmers settled with their families, and began to succeed in their pursuit of farming, one could sense characteristics of a growing community. The first post office, the Owsley, was established in 1912, and was situated on a section owned by Jim Potter. Next came the Level Post Office in 1915. Later that year the Monteview Post Office was established four miles north of the present Monteview Post Office.

"The Terreton Post Office was named after M.M. Terry, who built a store in the approximate location of Maureen Niederer's barn, in 1919. Anton Pederson began a store in Monteview in 1919. In 1921 the Gibson store was built near the site of the present Sander's Grocery. Because this business thrived, Mr. Gibson developed it into somewhat of a general store, handling not only groceries, but hardware, machinery parts, and general merchandise as well.

"Joe Rogers soon after operated a small store in his home south of the present Mud Lake Merc.

"The Monteview Merc was begun by Pete Kuharski in 1930. So successful was his Monteview store that Mr. Kuharski extended and

is responsible for the origin of the first Mud Lake Merc, the Oasis Bar and Cafe, a car service station, and a carpenter shop.

"The first school in the Mud Lake area was constructed in 1910, near the house now occupied by Don Bybee. It was the West Hamer School. In 1913 the first Level School was established in a very small building located west of the present Fish and Game official residence. The first teacher was Ruth Holman. This Level School was condemned and discontinued in 1915 because it became surrounded by flooding lake water.

"In 1924 another building was constructed in the same location as the first Level School. This was the building which burned in the fall of 1962 after functioning as the Terreton School lunch room for many years.

"The Ashton-St. Anthony Power Company brought the first power to Mud Lake in 1915. A power line was extended to the North Lake Canal, northwest of Mud Lake, supplying power for the North Lake Canal Company. Residents could not afford to pay the high fee required to decrease the high voltage by transformers which was essential for power to go to individual homes. It was about 1918 before any power was brought into individual farm use."

New Sweden

New Sweden, the well-kept farming area west of Idaho Falls, has always been one of the show places of Bonneville County. Descendants of the New Sweden pioneers unveiled a pioneer memorial at the New Sweden cemetery on July 14, 1974, with inspiring dedication services complete with a Swedish prayer.

The following are excerpts from a booklet printed at that time. The historical material was compiled by Ivo Jeffrey and includes information supplied by Mrs. C.W. (Huldah Lundblade) Peterson, and others. It was previously printed in the Snake River Echoes, Volume 4, Number 4 in 1975.

"Let us turn back the pages of time to a long ago yesteryear, 1884. A few immigrants, the Swanson family and the Erickson family, left Nebraska with hope of a new home and adventured into the young state of Idaho. They settled near a small town then known as Eagle Rock. The Swanson family acquired land one quarter mile north of what we now call the Holmer corner on Highway 20. They built a small home there.

"One year later a larger group came out. They all moved in with the Swansons. They spread their bedding on the attic floor, sleeping side by side as one big Swedish family. They ate many a meal of jack rabbits which ran wild over the sage brush lands. They immediately went to work clearing the land they had acquired and made arrangements for some type of dwelling to live in. Most of their homes were built of rock, though some were dug into a hillside and some were made of lumber, and they helped one another. The pioneers were poor in worldly goods but rich in good spirit and hope. All were young and strong, from good hardy Swedish ancestry.

"They all, women too, helped grub out the sagebrush and stack it in big piles. When evening came they would rest their weary bodies, watching the sagebrush burn. They had come with only necessary supplies, such as a few pieces of farm equipment. They planted grain and then had to build canals and ditches to supply the water.

"The main canals, the Porter and Great Western, were soon in operation. They had much grief with their irrigation system. They raised meager crops to begin with, but soon they had small orchards growing and a few small garden vegetables. As time went by their crops improved.

"Grain, alfalfa, and rural potatoes were raised. Money was very scarce so the bartering system was used. Bowen Curley of the American National Bank would loan money but it was costly. In borrowing one hundred dollars one would actually only get eighty dollars. This was considered outrageous interest rates.

"The drinking water was hauled in barrels from the Snake River. In the winter snow was melted for drinking purposes. Their fuel for heating and cooking came in the form of cedars grubbed from the lava beds.

"The pioneers rejoiced when their little Swedish Mission Church was built, and the first service was Christmas morning, 'Julotton,' 1895. The land was donated for the church and cemetery by the Great Western Company and the church was used until 1929.

"New Sweden School was founded November 1, 1895. It was held in a small frame building on what is now the Robert Lundblade place. In 1896 it was moved to the Mission Church and was there for about six years. The church received $10 a month rent. Miss Huldah Lundblade and later Mrs. C.W. Peterson, were the teachers. Forty pupils attended.

The Original two rooms of this home were built of logs about 1890, and were moved by P.A. Lundblade to the present location in about 1897. Logs were placed under the house for rollers and the home moved with teams of horses. The mile or so move took two months, while Mrs. Lundblade continued to cook and keep house in it for the family.

"A group of the old settlers met at the Andrew Burkman home in June, 1919 to make plans for a group to be known as the New Sweden Pioneer Association. The first picnic was held at the C. J. Carlson home in August, 1919 and Andrew Beckman was President. The roll call showed ninety-five members.

"A Library Hall was built south of the New Sweden School around the turn of the century. It was used for public meetings, elections, entertainment, social gatherings, dancesand basket socials. All were good, old wholesome fun. The funds raised were used to purchase books and other supplies.

"A landmark still standing is at the Allen Thiel home. It was built in 1894 and was used as a hotel. It housed the Swede Land Company. The old home on the Harold Dixon place was lived in by the Jackson family. The Campbell house was first built by the Swanson family in 1894. Also still standing are the Grover Jensen home and the house on the Holmer corner that had been owned by Kenneth Wood.

"Many things have changed in the eighty years, but we are a progressive community, and proud of our heritage."

Marysville, Idaho

"The following article was compiled by Marie A. Karren Egbert who is the wife of Fremont Historical Society Board member Russ Egbert of Ashton. She is a member of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers. The following material was first printed in the Snake River Echoes, Volume 4, Number 1 in 1975.

"The history of a community is made by its people. This history of Marysville started when the Baker family arrived here and took up a homestead in 1889. The family, consisting of Joe and Mary Baker and eight children, came from Nebraska. Joe walked all the way driving his cattle. They settled by a spring that has since been known as Bakers Springs.

"The following summer, other families moved in. Among these were: Levi Gifford, L.M. Smith, John Hill, Bill Lafferty, William Geisler, and Earnest and Len Spratling.

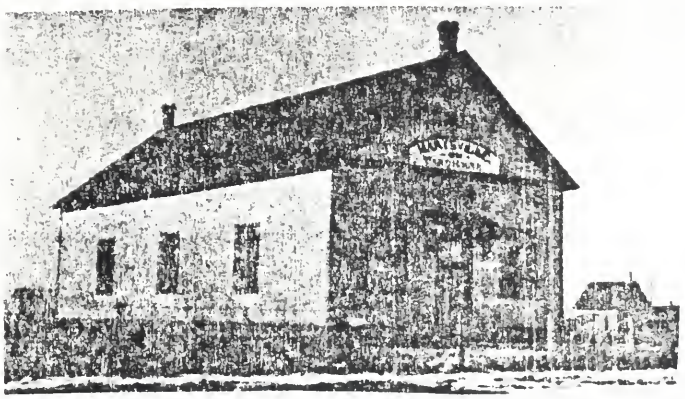
"The first log church was built in 1893, which was later replaced by the large frame Ward Hall. The hall was started in 1899 and completed in 1901. It was erected with donated time and money. Hollis Egbert served as finance clerk on the project. The largest donation was $25.00 by Otto Stegelmeier.

"The first Post Office was in the Baker Home with Mary Baker being appointed postmistress October 6, 1891. It was at first called Springville. In 1892 the Governor asked them to change the name because there was another Springville on the route. So it was decided to call the place Marysville after the postmistress. Mary Baker also had a store along with the post office.

"Shut off from the outside world, mail was a big event in the community. The Mail was brought to St. Anthony from Market Lake by stage coach and in the winter time from St. Anthony to Marysville by snowshoes and sled. The first mail was brought in by Maurie Sprague and his dog on New Years Day, 1891. A New

Year's party brought all the settlers to the Baker home and mail call was the highlight of the party. Other mail carriers were: Paul Fletcher, Emerson Green, Hall Egbert, and William Salisbury.

"Although residents were few it didn't take long to organize and plan for the future. Marysville Ward was organized November 8, 1891 with James Henry Wilson as Bishop. A Sunday School started with Thomas Whittle as superintendent. As there was no church building, meetings were held in different homes. The first was in Bishop Wilson's home. Meetings were held just in the summer as the snow was too deep to get around in the winter.



Marysville Wardhouse, 1901

"As water had to be hauled in barrels from Fall River for domestic use, the business of keeping roads open was a problem. Sometime later the first well was dug on the Geisler farm north of the Marysville townsite. The water was drawn by bucket and rope.

"The second well and the first one in the townsite was on the Thomas Cordingley lot. For many years this well produced the water for most of the residents of the town. Some drove their stock to the river for water but many brought their horses and cows to this well. Here, too, the water was drawn up by bucket and pulley. The watering trough for the animals was a section of a large tree hollowed out in the center.

"The second well in Marysville was on the present McCausey place. While this was being dug by shovel, six feet square, the sides caved in and LaMont Fuller's father was buried. After frantic digging, he was rescued.

"In due time, water was brought into the town by a ditch known as the 'Turkey Trail.' This was a great help, especially for watering stock and gardens.

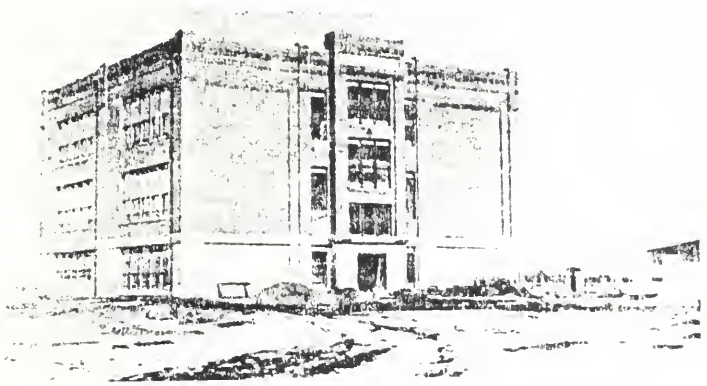
"The Bishop and Quorum formed a corporation to establish a townsite. As most of the families were living around Bakers Springs they were advised to build the town about where Ashton is now. There were more in favor of having it further east. As a deciding factor Bishop Wilson and David Weatherbee each deeded 80 acres to the townsite.

"The village was incorporated January 15, 1904 with James H. Wilson, William A. Barrett, Levi B. Reynolds, James G. Wood,

and J. Hollis Egbert appointed trustees. The population of the village was 200 at this time.

"The first house on the new townsite was built by Thomas Gooch. He was also the first missionary from the community. He went to England. Mrs. Gooch kept a boarding house and was the second postmistress, serving until her death in 1900. Then Mary Hendricks was appointed postmistress.

"The first school was held in the William Hardy home in a large living room which was partitioned. This was a tuition school taught by Lena Thompson and later by Lena Moon. The people built a one room log school house. M.M. Hammond taught here. Later they built a two story frame building. Alma Hale was the carpenter in charge. This was done in 1898.



Marysville New School, 1913

"The first babies were twins born to Mr. and Mrs. Bill Whittle. These babies, Marion and Mary Whittle, became some of Marysville's stalwart citizens. As there were no doctors here at that time, several of the mothers went to Salt lake and took training to be home nurses or mid wives. They were Grandma Loosli, Mrs. Cunningham, Emily Lamborn, and Fidelia Whittle. These ladies took care of the sick and delivered all the babies until Dr. Young came and settled in Marysville. He also had a drug store. Dr. Hummell arrived later. Dr. Hummell died suddenly, which was a sad occasion for the community.

"The young town continued to progress and prosper. Many businesses moved in and it soon became a thriving community. By 1910 there was a bank, two saloons, two hotels, implement shops, lumber yards, blacksmith shops, a drug store, grocery stores, a barber shop, two meat markets, a skating rink, a harness shop, a hardware store, and a millinery shop. These may not be all but the town really grew under the leadership of the early pioneers.

"The first death was Eliza Lamborn, which brought up the question of a cemetery. The Bishop purchased the site from William Hardy for the Pineview Cemetery.

"About 1906 the railroad went through to Yellowstone with a depot just below Giffords called Ingling. Moat Fuller was the agent at the depot which later burned. Another depot was built on the Teton Basin route on the south edge of town.

"These industrious people created their own entertainment. They held many celebrations on the 4th of July. They would build a big bowery for shade where they sold lemonade, popcorn, candy, etc. They held horse races, foot races, a race to catch the greased pig, and of course, a parade with the band leading. There was always a dance in the evening. Many dances were held in the old Shepherd Hall before the new ward hall was finished. They put on many home talent plays.

"James G. Wood was judge. A small jail was built on the back of the Wood's lot. It cost $35. W.R. Hardy was the first town Marshall. Judge Wood was also the village clerk. His salary was $75 per year. When J.H. Egbert was Sheriff, his salary was $20 per month. His other duties at that time were road supervisor and water master.

"When the new brick school house was built, about 1912 or 1914, it was the first modern building in Marysville and at one time all rooms were in use. Because it was heated, the building was also used for church meetings. The building was finally abandoned in 1953 when the new school was built in Ashton and the district consolidated. The building has now been taken down.

"At the present time, April, 1974, many changes have taken place. The original pioneers have all passed away. No businesses remain. The town has been disincorportated and it has become a residential area.

"We, the posterity of the pioneers, cherish the memory of those courageous souls who endured so much to conquer this area and make it a beautiful place for us to live."

Big Lost River and Old Arco

The following article was written by Ethel Mecham Ackerman. Mrs. Ackerman has been intensely interested in the early history of the Big Lost River and the Old Arco area all her life and as a service to the readers of the Arco Advertiser and to insure that some of the history of the area is preserved for the future, she has been compiling historical accounts and interesting stories. The source of her material was old books, newspaper articles, official documents, pictures, and her own experiences in the area. The article was previously printed in the Snake River Echoes, Volume 5, Number 4 in 1976.

"The first white man recorded to have visited the Big Lost River, was Antone Godin. He was in command of some French fur traders who came in June, 1823. They named it 'Godin River.' Ten years later he returned to explore it but was killed by Indians and the area was forgotten.

"Early Indians and trapper had followed down the river, expecting it to take them to the Snake River but found that it sank into the desert. Soldiers from Fort Hall were sent to explore the river. They, too, reported that it became 'lost' in the desert. So we have the most likely name for the 'Big Lost River.'

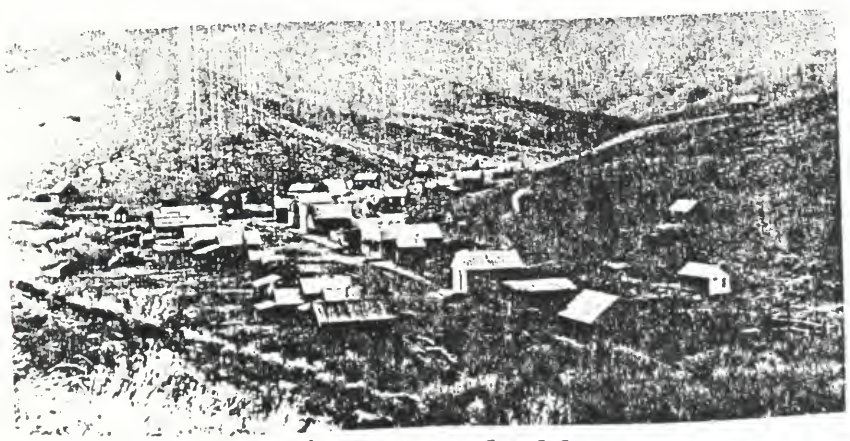
"George W. Goodhart, in his book, Trails of Early Idaho, tells of visits to Arco Smith's Trading Post in 1860. It was a

crossing place in upper Box Canyon and a stopping place for the trappers and Indians. It was about five miles down the Big Lost River from present Arco. Later, in the 70's, Smith moved up to the head of the canyon and had a ranch, a trading post, and a stage station.

"In 1883, George E. Ferris, his wife Jennie, and sons Arthur, 3 years old and Louis, 1 year, opened a store there. Later Isaac Smith operated the Smith holdings and there was in 'Old Arco,' a store, boarding house, express office, saloon, and stage stable. This was the junction of the Blackfoot-Wood River stage and the Blackfoot-Challis stage. There was a suspension bridge built here for crossing the river during high water. Mrs. Ferris reported great droves of cattle, sheep, and horses trailed past and one night 20 covered wagons were camped at Old Arco.

"Goodard, in 1860, would leave Fort Hall, cross the Snake River and ride to Danielson's Spring on the Big Butte. He would go through the desert to the Big Lost River where it comes out of the canyon. He would then cross the river and go up the northwest side to Arco Smith's Trading Post.

"Later the emigrants and freight trains leaving Fort Hall would crossed the Snake River to the Big Butte Springs. It was named Vance's stage stop. They would then proceed over to where the Big Lost River comes out of the canyon. They didn't cross the river until they reached 'Old Arco.' Then they crossed it. The covered wagon trains on their way to Oregon, left Old Arco, followed along the edge of the craters to the old Martin post office, and moved on west out of the present day Butte County.



The Town of old Era,
in Butte County, 1884

"The Big Lost River goes southeast down Box Canyon, comes out, and turns north. If you would like to see where it sinks, drive from Arco to Howe. Turn right on the highway to Dubois and Roberts about 8 miles from Howe. Around this point and farther east are the Big Lost River Sinks. Water is there in the early spring and other times of high water.

"The first settlers along the Big Lost River came in the 1870's. The valley was full of willows, cottonwood, and brush. The river was spread out from one side of the valley to the

other. It was so marshy and boggy that there were few crossing places. The Indians had their trails on the lower hills, above the trees and away from the mosquitoes. The settlers worked very hard to clear their land. At first only livestock was raised consisting of cattle, horses, and sheep. When they could clear the ground, hay was grown.

"At first they had 'Squatters Rights' until the land was surveyed and opened for homestead entry. Irrigation then began with decreed water rights. Neighbors were few and far between...

"In the 1880's prospectors and miners joined the travelers through the Big Lost River Country. Copper and silver mines were opening to the north near Mackay in Custer County. To the west and north were the rich mines along the Wood River.

"West of Old Arco and north of the Craters, in the Lava Creek District, Frank Martin discovered his Horn Silver Mine on June 4, 1884. His brother Samuel also staked a claim with him. The first three carloads of the rich silver ore were off the top of the ground. The ore was taken to the smelter in Hailey. News of the rich strike spread and other mines were developed in the Lava Creek District.

"Up Champagne Creek, with the Martin Brothers' Horn Silver Mine, was Last Chance, Bucking Pinto, Whale, East Side, and St. Louis mines. On Champagne Creek the boom town of Era started. Frank Martin named the town after his nephew and the son of Samuel and Mattie D. Martin. Reports said that from 300 to 1200 people lived at Era. Frank and Samuel Martin sold their mine to Salt Lake City investors who built a 20 stamp mill at Era. Later the ore veins started running out in the mines and the mill closed down. The houses, stores, and bricks from the mill were later moved to homesteads, farms, and 'New Arco.'

"Frank and Samuel Martin and Mattie D. Martin had staked out homesteads. In 1883 Mattie D. Martin was appointed postmistress at the Martin post office ranch home. She held the office for 45 years and has held the distinction of the most years of service of any postmaster in the United Sates. The Martin brothers, after selling their mine, invested in the cattle business. The Martin post office was originally on the old emigrant trail into Oregon. Some left graves there but their markers have disappeared. The Martin family graves were moved to the Arco Cemetery and are marked. The large post office home at Martin burned down about 1959..."

Colonizing the Salem Area

The following information was gathered by Beverly Price and first appeared in the Snake River Echoes, Volume 5, Number 4 in 1976.

"Prior to the year 1883 there was some colonizing done in the North Snake River Valley and at the present town of Rexburg. Sparsely settled there was a large tract of land on the north, five by seven miles, which lay unsettled.

"This strip of land ran from the mouth of the Teton River east seven miles and north five miles. Most of the tract was

covered with native grass, mountain dock, and sage brush with very little water. Deer and antelope by the hundreds could often be found at almost any season of the year.

"During the spring and early summer of 1883 the colonists at Rexburg, wishing to hold this tract of land for Mormon home seekers, had four house logs placed on each quarter section.

"In October, 1883, G.H.B. Harris moved onto this section of land and under very trying circumstances settled some ground and built a home. He paved the way for what is known today as the community of Salem.

"About this same time James H. Wilson and H.P. Hanson also settled part of the land. This was the first winter of colonization in 1883.

"During the summer of 1884 small parcels of ground were broken but very small crops of grain were raised by Mr. Wilson and Mr. Hansen. This was the first attempt at raising crops in this area and they found it most successful. They talked to many other Mormons and convinced them to move into Salem to help settle the area.

"One of the first steps for the colonizing of an arid district, such as it was, was to obtain water from some source or another. These pioneers lost no time in beginning their operations and in 1884 the first Irrigation Canal Company was organized and completed in sufficient time for irrigation that year. The farmers found it very difficult owing to the porous condition of the soil to irrigate an acre with an abundance of water.

"Prior to this actual colonization some claims in Salem had been taken by Rexburg people but no direct colonizing had been done. Rexburg was two miles distant and proved to be a barrier to the colonizing of homes in Salem because the people built their homes in the townsite of Rexburg and then traveled to their farms.

"By November the number of people covering the thirty-five square miles of land did not exceed fifty people, including 30 children. In the fall of 1884 they were organized into a ward of the Mormon Church with G.H.B. Harris as the first bishop of the Salem Ward.

"The territory comprised by the ward was to the south as far as Rexburg, to the west including what is now Hibbard, and to the north as far as the Snake River. Homes were from one to three miles apart.

"The townsite of the county was selected and surveyed and the name Salem chosen after the ancient Salem of the Bible, meaning peace. This name was given by Bannock Stake President Thomas E. Ricks on November 23, 1884.

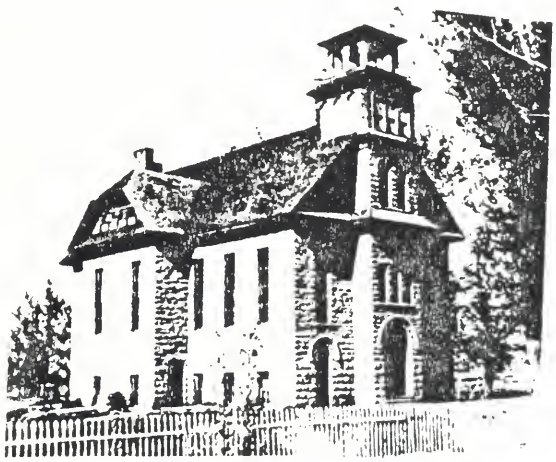
"The first few years of colonizing Salem proved to be very hard and challenging to the saints. In 1889 diptheria hit the area and many families died or suffered the death of family members.

"In December, 1884 a small 16 x 20 log meeting house was built to serve the purpose of both church and school for several years.

"The nearest railroad point at this time was twenty-five miles away. This was the first place where produce could be marketed. For several years grain sold for 40 cents per hundred and potatoes sold for the same price. Freight rates were 20 cents per hundred, which left the farmer very little profit from his farm. Butter sold for 15 cents a pound and eggs sold for 8 cents a dozen.

"The entire community was Mormon. In 1906 the population was between eight and nine hundred people. Between 1884 and 1906 the townsite really grew because of the opportunity that people heard was there for them.

"In 1890 a law had been passed that stated that no man should practice polygamy. This brought many hardships to the families in this area because if they were arrested they were punished by serving a jail sentence. This left the crops to be harvested by the women and children of the families. It was very hard work...



Salem Church

"In June of 1895 the Bannock Stake divided and Salem became a part of the Fremont Stake. In the year 1900 the ward membership was 573. There were 80 families with 213 children under the age of eight.

"Salem began to prosper and in 1906 there were two general stores, a livery stable, a shoe shop, a blacksmith shop, a post office, a creamery, a school, and a new church. There were two ball parks, a tithing building, and a Relief Society storage house.

"In May, 1909, the first eighth grade commencement took place in North Salem. It had taken three years before a school was established. It was completed in 1905 and was used until 1947 when North Salem joined the Sugar School District, which was then called the Sugar-Salem School District. School at this time only lasted three months at a time due to the hard winters and the harvesting of the crops.

"The Salem townsite had electricity in 1906, but it did not get out to the farms until the 1920's. Some families got telephones in 1906, but most of the people waited until many years later.

"In June, 1935 the Salem Ward became part of the Rexburg Stake. In 1945 the Rexburg Stake divided and Salem was in the North Rexburg Stake.

"In December of 1960 there were 475 members, 121 families with 90 children under 8 years of age. Everyone who lived in Salem at that time was a Mormon.

"At the present time, 1971 there are 540 people in Salem."

History of Shelley

The following story was compiled by Glenna Kotter and was printed previously in the Snake River Echoes, Volume 5, Number 4 in 1976.

"In the early spring of 1885, three young men from American Fork, Utah, left their homes and started north. They were in search of a land of greater opportunity. These men were George Steele, James E. Steele, and John F. Shelley.

"After many trying days the adventurers reached the Snake River Valley. As they reached the section of country which is now Shelley, John F. was struck by the long level stretches of land, the water of the Snake not too far from the road, and the tall sage that denoted good deep soil.

"However, their destination was Eagle Rock and land east where other American Fork people had settled.

"Upon arriving at their destination, Iona, the men looked the land over to choose tracts which they might homestead. Then they returned to American Fork to get their families.

"Their first years were hardship and disillusionment but John F. did raise good crops and opened a mercantile business. But he wasn't satisfied. His thoughts kept wandering to the place he had liked as he traveled through the valley. Several times he made trips down to the place which is now Shelley. He could see the possibilities of the level land with water so close. There were farms dotting the country side at Taylor along Sand Creek and some at Basalt.

"Mr. Shelley conceived the idea of establishing a mercantile business catering to the farmers and inviting others to come here to live in the area to the south of Iona.

"As he had already used his homestead rights in Iona, Mrs. Shelley filed on a piece of land in her name.

"In the early spring of 1892, Mr. Shelley had a log house built and a Mr. Mickelson moved into it. He worked for Mr. Shelley putting part of the land under cultivation. This was the first house built in Shelley.

"John F. Shelley had the railroad bring him some lumber and a store and livery barn were built. A house for his family was started and in October of 1892 John F. moved his family into it.

"On getting his family settled, Mr. Shelley set about to get the railroad to put in a spur at this point so that the train might be able to stop there. Then there arose the question as to what the town should be called. Mr. Shelley wanted 'Shelton.' Mrs. Shelley liked 'Shelko.' So they drew lots and Mrs. Shelley won and the name of 'Shelko' was sent to the railroad company saying that they had decided to name the town that. The railroad

officials wrote back and informed Mr. Shelley that the railroad company had already named their spur 'Shelley.' So it was that 'Shelley' became the official name of the town.

"By this time other people began coming to Shelley to make homes and businesses. Other pioneer residents in the history of Shelley were Ann Hubbard, James Mitchell, and Heber Hubbard, who settled there in 1885.

"The Shelley's and other L.D.S. settlers attended meetings in the Basalt Ward and later at Taylor. In the fall of 1893, they were organized into a branch of the Church with John Franklin Shelley as presiding Elder. The Shelley branch was organized as a regular ward on February 10, 1895, with John F. Shelley installed as bishop. On August 1, 1909 the Shelley Ward was divided and organized into two wards. The total church membership of the two Shelley wards on December 31, 1930 was 1380.

"The Bingham Stake, which was formed in 1895, was divided into two parts at a quarterly conference held in Rigby, Idaho, January 31, 1904. Shelley was included within the boundaries of the new Blackfoot Stake.

"As the Mormon population increased, the Blackfoot Stake was diminished by the organization of its northern district into the Shelley Stake of Zion at a conference held in Blackfoot on August 16, 1914. The new stake consisted of the Basalt, Jameston, Taylor, Goshen, Kimball, Woodville, and the two Shelley Wards. In 1927, the Stake Tabernacle at Shelley was completed at a cost in excess of $100,000. This building was one of the finest in the country.

"During this time John F. Shelley's Mercantile Business had expanded as did the other enterprises he helped to promote. He had the first well blasted through lava rock so that the people could come and get pure drinking water. He built the Shelley Roller Mills on the Snake River, financed the Shelley Light and Power Company, and was instrumental in getting telephones in the homes.

"Mrs. Shelley circulated a petition for a post office. This was granted and the mail was kept in the family wardrobe until the Shelley Mercantile was completed. A place was then made for the mail at the store. John F. Shelley was the first postmaster.

"Shelley's first school was opened in the fall of 1893 in a log house built by George Steele. The teacher was Miss Wood. There was one long table across the room with a bench to sit on. The enrollment was seven pupils.

"In the fall of 1894 a small frame school house was erected where school, church, and all public meetings were held until 1900 when the Shelley Ward erected a hall large enough to accommodate the growing population. Later school barns were built to shelter the children's ponies since they either walked or rode ponies to school. Very few of the students lived within two miles of the schoolhouse.

"A school district was established in Shelley in 1898.

"The first industry of Shelley was built in 1897 and operated by a Mr. Roberts. He established a pottery plant on the south end of the Shelley townsite to manufacture jars and crocks.

This business flourished for two years and then an overheated kiln burned the structure to the ground.

"Later Mr. Joe Crawford and David N. Stephens operated a brick yard and pressed bricks were manufactured and shipped to Ogden and other points.

"O.P. Jensen operated the first blacksmith shop, A.E. Christensen opened the first butcher shop, D.W. Arave the first carpenter shop, and Mrs. Soren Yourgensen opened the first restaurant and hotel.

"In 1899 Docia Shelley and Hannah Davies carried a petition all over the county for signers to construct a bridge across the Snake River. This was sent to the county commissioners and the bridge was built in 1902 and named the Riverview Bridge.

"Holidays were celebrated in great style. On July 4th, the Declaration of Independence would always be read and the people would listen to the orator of the day. There were always cannons at day break, barrels of free lemonade, races, and a dance and fireworks at night.

"Mr. T.J. Bennett opened a store in Shelley in 1903. He worked diligently for everything that made for progress in Shelley or the community at large. It was through his efforts that street lights were installed. He was always working and fighting for better roads, bridges, paving, and for Shelley's first high school.

"E.M. Hubbel came and pioneered the Shelley potato buying industry. In 1905 he became the first real potato and grain buyer. He started what is known today as 'Spud Alley.' Shelley is the center of Idaho's most prolific potato growing region. A harvest celebration is held every fall during which a choice baked spud is served to everyone present. This Spud Day was inaugurated in 1927. The annual potato production approximates 2,000 carloads.

"In 1903 telephones were installed in some homes and a small telephone office was erected with Mrs. Adams as the telephone operator.

"J.F. Shelley started to lay lines for electric service in 1907 and put in a small power plant at the Shelley Roller Mill. Later, in 1910, a power plant was built on the Snake River north of Shelley. John Jorgensen had this work in charge. The plant was sold to Utah Power and Light Company in 1918.

"Shelley's first bank was formed by several local businessmen and located in the building which now houses the Puskar Electric Shop. It was built about 1905 and called the Shelley Banking Company.

"Mallory's Cash Store was founded in the year 1908 by W.J. Mallory making it now the oldest store operating under the same name in the Upper Snake River Valley.

"The Virginia Theatre was built in 1918 by Francis M. Davis. He made sure that only the best of pictures were shown. During the second week of May the entire receipts of one night were turned over to the Red Cross. The grand opening of the new show house was held in July, 1918. The structure was built by Tom Shelley and Mr. Davis and named after Tom's daughter, Virginia. It had a stage and would seat 600 people.

"The Shelley sugar factory was built by E.H. Dyer and Company for the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company in 1917. The original capacity was 500 tons per day. During its first season the factory manufactured 30,563 bags of sugar. The production more than doubled in 1918. Because of a serious white fly infestation the factory didn't operate in 1919. The peak year of production was 1940. The last year of operation was 1942. The Shelley factory was dismantled in 1950. The building is now used as a sugar storage warehouse.

"Shelley was made a village in the early 1900's but as all records were destroyed by fire the exact date is unknown. In 1910 it reported a population of 537 and in 1918 the population was estimated at 700. On February 2, 1921 the village became a city when it was declared by city ordinance that it now had more than 1000 persons.

"In the 1960 census, Shelley's population was officially listed at 2,625."

Teton Valley

Tamara Hibbert of Teton Valley is the writer of the following description of the Valley. It was first printed in the Snake River Echoes, Volume 5, Number 4 in 1976.

"With creeks and streams running over the land converging into rivers, Nature provides the land with water. This water is as fresh and clear as a spring mountain morning, tumbling over mossy green rocks and pebbles.

"The air is full of several different fragrances, pine, rain, and scents from the many colorful wild flowers that are strewn under the trees and over the clearings. A few clearings can be found among the trees with soft green grass that is just right for afternoon picnic.

"The water that has been running for centuries has made the canyons deep. The mountains are rich with foliage from the snow that is provided by winter. Wildlife abounds in its natural habitat: bear, moose, deer, elk, skunk, beaver, coyote, and numerous others. Insects are everywhere even if they cannot be seen. Fed by the clear air and running crystal waters most of nature thrives.

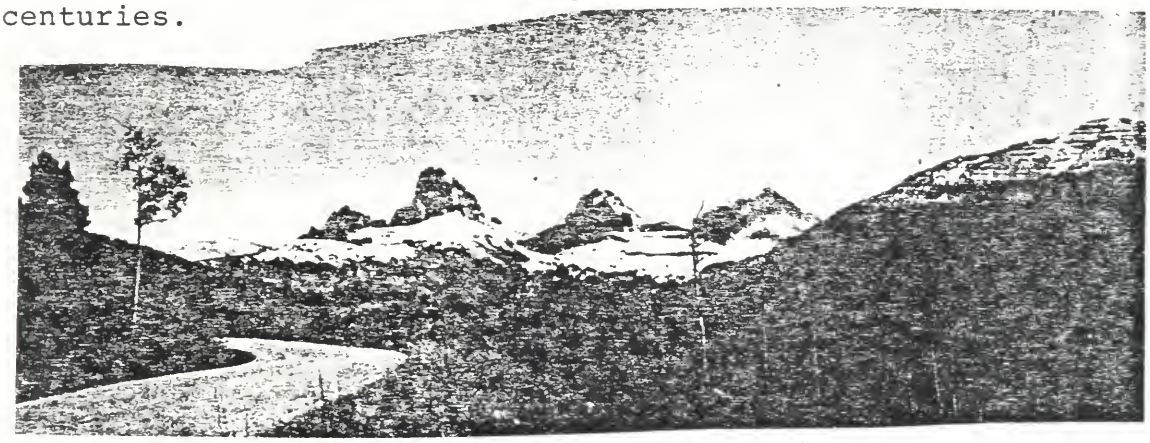
"Yes, the Teton Basin is beautiful with nature's many wonders. No matter what season it is in, it always does the best with what nature dishes out. The occasional rains of spring and early summer just add to the streams and creeks of melted snow. These rains also help to break the grasp of winter's cold hand.

"The summer's rays of golden sunshine give the light and life to all of Mother Nature's many creatures and plants. In summer the valley seems to come to life with the baby creatures coming out to explore their new world.

"The Teton Valley could not be more lovely than when all the rich and mellow colors of autumn are seen. The leaves turn gold, red, rust, yellow, and brown, looking like a patchwork quilt after they have fallen to the ground. The trees hold onto these leaves of color for a long time. As soon as the wind blows

the leaves in various directions, the trees are bare once more until spring sees fit to outfit them again in green. Although most of the trees do turn a different color, the evergreen keeps her rich coat of green all through the year. The colors blaze and resemble the sunset with its rainbow of colors.

"Then with the white blanket of snow, Mother Nature tucks her children in for bed. The jutting peaks of the Tetons can be seen for miles on a clear day, with the sun reflecting off the snow that covers them. They stand as a sentinel watching over the whole valley. They look majestic, as they spring up from nowhere and watch over the kingdom that has been theirs for centuries.



The Grand Teton Mountains
as seen from the Teton Valley

"The Teton Valley is not one of those places that 'it is fun to visit but I wouldn't want to live there.' Once you have visited and the magic of the Valley descends upon you, you will want to call it 'Home.'"

UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
25 Years of Preserving History

The Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society was begun in 1965. It is celebrating its twenty-fifth year anniversary during the year of 1990. The main celebration will be an anniversary dinner and program on April 28. The following is a compilation of events that have transpired under the sponsorship or direction of the society and its officers.

Presidents

A president of the Historical Society was elected for a one year term usually in April of the year. A president could be elected for three terms before being replaced according to the constitution.

1965	John Nash
1965 - 1970	Norman Ricks
1970 - 1973	Harold Forbush
1973 - 1976	Louis Clements
1976 - 1979	Jerry Glenn
1979 - 1983	Louis Clements
1983 - 1984	Dan Hemsley
1984 - 1985	Mel Wilde
1984 - 1988	Dr. Blair Rich
1988 - 1990	Theo Fullmer
1990 -	Georgia Ricks

Significant Events In The Twenty-five Year History Of The Historical Society

1965 Apr 23 Organizational Meeting at Ricks College. Anyone interested interested in forming a historical society for the valley was invited to attend.

Apr 28 Name formally adopted and John Nash chosen as the first chairman.

1965 May 12 Constitution adopted.

Jul 28 Norman Ricks becomes chairman as Nash moves to California.

Sep 29 Articles of Incorporation filed with State of Idaho. The Society to be incorporated as a non-profit organization.

Nov 17 Dr. M. D. Beal, guest speaker. His subject was on museums and local history and how to preserve it.

1966 Apr 22 Dr. David Crowder, guest speaker. His subject was Chief Tendoy whom he had just finished a book on.

Oct 17 A series of historical articles appears in the Standard Journal, Rigby Star, Fremont Chronicle, Ashton Herald, and Post Register. They are edited by Louis Clements.

Nov 11 Dr. Blair Rich, guest speaker. His subject on this Armistice day was World War I. There were several veterans of the war present to give their thoughts.

1967 Feb 16 U. S. S. Rexburg memorabilia given to the society by the City of Rexburg.

Mar 15 Dr. Blair Rich and Norman Ricks, guest speakers. They talked of early Rexburg, trappers, Indians, and settlers.

Apr 13 Jessie Atkinson becomes the first life time member of the Society. A $100 contribution brought this honor.

Apr 13 Glen Humphreys and DeWayne Wilding, guest speakers. They spoke on Rexburg and surrounding areas histories.

Oct 18 Historical Society seal is adopted. A contest was held at the county fair for entries. The winning entry was redesigned by the Board of Directors into the seal being currently used.

1967 Nov 15 Ruth Smiley Ricks, guest speaker. Her subject was Thomas E. Ricks. The Society is beginning a program to honor pioneer families and the Ricks family was chosen to be the first.

1968 Mar 1st Newsletter sent to all members of the Society. It is to be a twice year publication that is later to be quarterly.

1968 Apr 17 Annual meeting featured a slide show by Dr. Blair Rich showing scenes of historical sites in Eastern Idaho.

Dec 4 Alvin Munns, guest speaker. This was a pioneer family honoring night and the family was Sheriff Munns'.

1969 Apr 18 Dr. George Marlor, guest speaker. Slides and presentation about Yellowstone based on his years of experience as a park guide and geologist.

Sep 17 Chairman position changed to include being president of the Historical Society. Norman Ricks is first President and Chairman combined.

Nov 21 John Rawlston Poole family honored as pioneer family.

1970 Mar 21 Museum grand opening in DeWayne Wilding's gun shop on College Avenue in Rexburg. We have half of the building to display items until another museum can be opened. A lot of people came to the opening. It is the beginning of an era.

Apr 17 Dr. Merle Wells, guest speaker. His subject was museums and what should and should not be accepted in the museum for display and preservation.

Oct 21 Harold Forbush becomes Chairman/President.

Nov 20 Pioneer family honored this year was the Richard Leigh (Beaver Dick) family. Some of his family attended the program and provided insights to the knowledge of the mountain man, settler of Eastern Idaho.

1971 Feb 3 The official address of the Historical Society becomes P. O. Box 244.

1971 Feb 3 Committee Organized to seek the Rexburg Tabernacle and grounds for a museum. The committee was DeWayne Wilding, Louis Clements, and Norman Ricks.

Apr 9 Ed Williams, guest speaker. A noted geologist from Ricks College, he presented a program with slides on a climb of the Tetons.

Apr 10 First Annual History Fair in the Madison Junior High School gym. Louis Clements is chairman. The gym was filled with collections of historical displays from all over the state.

1971 May 6 Quarterly Journal of historical stories to begin with Louis Clements as editor. It will be called the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society Quarterly until a better name is found. Articles from all over Idaho will be solicited for inclusion in this historical publication.

Jul 17 A field trip to the Camas Battlefield at Kilgore. We visited the "bugler's grave" and then went over to the spot where Chief Joseph's Nez Perce warriors surrounded and almost wiped out the cavalry. Speakers filled us in on the story at each site.

Nov 3 Board of Director meetings up to this time had been held at the college and at the museum on College Avenue. This meeting and for the next few years the meetings were held at Dr. Blair Rich's home on South Center Street. He is a charter member of the Historical Society and a gracious host.

Nov 11 The fall public meeting in Rexburg of the Historical Society was honoring the Jacob Henry Flamm family. It was held in the chapel of the Flamm Funeral Home.

Nov 12 The fall public meeting in St. Anthony of the Historical Society discussed area history.

Nov 18 The fall public meeting in Roberts of the Historical Society was under chairman Mel Wilde. It was held in the public school and the Roberts/Market Lake history was discussed.

1972 Feb 21 A public meeting was held in Dubois on the history of Clark County. It was sponsored by the PTA and was held in the school. The Historical Society provided the speakers.

1972 March 27 - April 1 Rexburg History week proclaimed by Mayor Henry Shirley.

Apr The 2nd Annual History Fair was held at the Madison Junior High School gym with DeWayne Wilding as the chairman. The gym was filled with displays and the crowd was big.

May 13 A public meeting was held in Driggs to stir up interest in the Teton Valley history. Dr. Merle B. Wells was the speaker. It was well attended.

Jul 22 The Pierre's Hole Rendezvous was begun by the Historical Society. Our board member, Wendell Gillette, took the job of organizing this celebration. In conjunction with the celebration a monument was dedicated just south of Driggs to commemorate the Pierre's Hole Rendezvous of 1832. The monument was a granite rock with a plaque on it.

1973 Mar 14 Louis Clements becomes Chairman/President.

Apr 14 Third Annual History Fair. DeWayne Wilding was the chairman a second time.

May 9 Bill Conway becomes the editor of the Quarterly.

Aug 18 A field trip to Market Lake in conjunction with the State Highway Department and the Idaho Fish and Game. We assisted the Highway department to dedicate a sign and historical marker on Interstate 15. We assisted the Fish and Game with a program at the lake north of Roberts.

1974 Apr 25 The Quarterly has its name changed to Snake River Echoes.

May 8 - 29 The Society sponsors a class on identification of minerals. It was held at the Madison High school and culminated in a trip to Caribou City to pan for gold.

May 18 Idaho Indian History Fair was held in Idaho Falls. The chairman of the event was Linden Bateman. The hall was filled with Indian artifacts and displays.

Jul 13 Field trip to Caribou Mountain gold fields with Jerry Glenn as the guide. This was a finish to the class on minerals held later in the year. There was a large caravan of cars on this trip.

Aug 3 Field trip to Fort Hall with Dr. Merrill D. Beal as guide.

1974 Sep Historical Society helps organize Fremont County Historical Society in St. Anthony. We will now try to get a historical group organized in each of the counties we have been trying to represent so that they can preserve history better. We will still try to coordinate efforts of all groups.

Nov 9 Honor the pioneering Smith family of Rexburg.

1975 Jan 6 Historical Society organizes Bonneville County Historical Society.

Jan Historical Society organizes Jefferson County Historical Society.

Mar 26 The first issue of wooden dollars by the Historical Society. This first issue was to commemorate the Centennial and had the seal of the Society on it.

1975 Apr 2 Rexburg history featured on Channel 10 TV, Snake River Anthology. Louis Clements was interviewed and related history of the area was described.

May Historical Society organizes Teton Valley Historical Society.

May 2nd class sponsored by Historical Society on mineral identification. Vernon Ricks was the instructor.

May 29 Bicentennial coins are issued by Historical Society. There were 150 silver and 300 bronze coins depicting the national celebration.

Jun 12 Field trip to Birch Creek, Nicholia mines, and the charcoal kilns. This chairman of the event was Mel Wilde.

Jul 12 Field trip to Caribou City gold fields. This was the culmination of the minerals class held in May. Vernon Ricks showed us how to pan for gold and a visit to the city was included.

Jul 26 Indian Fair held in Idaho Falls again with Linden Bateman as the chairman. Big event with many people in attendance.

Sep 13 10th Anniversary steak fry at the home of Dr. Blair Rich. He has moved west of town on the banks of the Snake River overlooking Beaver Dick's first families graves. Representatives of all the historical societies in the valley were in attendance and a review of each of their activities was presented.

1976 March 26 & 27 Co-sponsor with Ricks College of Heritage Arts Festival. A pioneer village and other exhibits.

Apr 14 Jerry Glenn elected Chairman/President.

Apr 16 Louis Clements represents Society as speaker at Bonneville County Historical Society public meeting. He spoke on mountain men and area history.

Jun 5 Teton Dam breaks at 11:57 a.m. The museum collection and all the historical society records were destroyed in the resulting flood. The only things that were not ruined were the records that were in individual board members homes that were not in the flood. The Society lost pictures, artifacts, and back issues of the Quarterly. President Glenn supervised the clean up and salvage.

Aug Field trip to Gilmore, Idaho. This ghost town sits near the highway between Mud Lake and Salmon. The chairman of the event was Mel Wilde.

1976 Aug 4 Museum articles salvaged will be stored in a barn supplied by Board member, Kendall Ballard. Mr. Ballard lives in Hibbard, Idaho, just northwest of Rexburg.

Aug 7 The Society sponsors a Pierre's Hole Rendezvous public meeting. It featured Paul Petzel. His subject was climbing the Teton Peaks. The Rendezvous itself has been taken over by the communities of the Valley.

Aug 13 Field Trip to Lemhi, Idaho, to take part in the dedication of a monument to Lewis and Clark. The monument and program was supplied by the State Historical Society. The people in attendance were supplied by our Historical Society.

Nov 10 Public meeting with Dr. Ross Peterson of Utah State University as the speaker. His subject was, "Once Upon a Time There Was a West."

Dec 4 Public meeting in Rexburg at the college with Paul Petzel as the speaker. He used slides and told of the fun and perils of climbing the Teton Peaks.

1977 May 4 The flood claim of the Historical Society to the Bureau of Reclamation is filed. It was for $169,747.

1977 Aug 6 Historical marker is dedicated at Green Canyon Hot Springs honoring Robert Stuart, early explorer in 1814, in conjunction with the North Rexburg Stake Blazer scouts.

Aug 13 Historical Society field trip to Kilgore, Idaho, to see the battlefield of the Nez Perce War.

Oct 14 Public Meeting with Dr. Arthur Hart showing slides on Mormon Architecture. It was held at Ricks College.

1978 Aug 12 - 13 Woods Livestock Reunion at Spencer, Idaho. Sponsored by the Clark County Historical Board it was prompted by suggestions from our Society. We assisted in advertising and ideas. Thousands returned to take part.

Aug 19 Field Trip to the Lander Trail. Chairman of the event was Jerry Glenn.

Sep Budget for the next year as submitted to the County Commissioners was set at $5,100.

1978 Sep 21 Tabernacle is now in the possession of the City of Rexburg. The Society committee working with the City were able to convince the LDS Church to sell the building to the City. A grant was obtained to help in the purchase. Restoration is now proceeding as matching funds become available.

Nov 10 Honor Pioneer Charles Zollinger family.

1979 Mar Dave Power gives vocal concert in Tabernacle and raised $150 for the Tabernacle Restoration Fund.

Apr A benefit concert by Florence Bowman raised $600 for the Tabernacle Restoration Fund.

Summer Field trip to the Mackay mines and the Mackay museum. The trip was featured with pictures in the next issue of the Echoes.

Sep 13 Harold Forbush donates over 100 oral history tapes to the Historical Society library.

Oct 25 Vice-President, Kendall Ballard, takes over duties of President as Jerry Glenn resigns.

Nov 9 Honor Pioneer Parkinson family at Ricks College. There were four different Parkinson families who came to Rexburg in the early days. All were honored

this night. 1980 Jan Louis Clements elected as Chairman/President.

Jun 10 Historical Society helps to organize the Teton Valley Historical Society.

Jul 4 Patriotic program at Tabernacle.

Jul 19 Caribou City field trip.

Sep 19 Fall social at Beaver Dick Park for all board and other societies boards.

Sep 20 Field trip to Kilgore to pan for gold.

Oct 23 First Security Bank in Salmon gives the society an addressograph machine to do address labels with.

1981 Jun 6 Teton Flood Museum opens in the basement of the Tabernacle. DeWayne Wilding fired his gun to blast a ribbon for the grand opening.

Jun 20 Island Park Interpretive Association will have their grand opening. We helped them organize and get the Johnny Sack Cabin for their museum.

Jun 26-27 Medicine Lodge Reunion sponsored by the Clark County Historical Association and us.

July 3-4 History Fair and open house at the Tabernacle Museum.

Aug Budget proposed for the next year was $5,500.

Aug 20 Regional social for all historical groups held in Rigby at the park. Well attended.

Aug 28 - 29 Railroad Ranch reunion. We help set up and give the idea to the park (ranch) employees to set up.

Aug 29 Field trip to Chesterfield.

Sep 12 Field trip to Kilgore to pan for gold.

Sep Dr. Merrill D. Beal honored as an Eastern Idaho historian. This is to become a tradition with the Eastern Idaho historical groups. Dr. Beal is the first.

Oct Approval given by IRS for the Society to function officially as a non-profit entity.

Nov 25 Thomas E. Ricks family honored as pioneer family.

1981 Dec Five thousand wooden dollars advertising the Society are being distributed.

1982 Jan 23 Evening program sponsored by the Society, "Winter of 1948-49.

Feb 3 The Idaho Historic Preservation Council, who sponsor the annual Orchids and Onions Dinner, presented the Distinguished Preservation Award (Orchid) to the Tabernacle Restoration committee of the Historical Society. DeWayne Wilding received this for the Historical Society.

Feb 23 Photography night to teach and take historical pictures.

Mar 17 Regional historical society meeting to coordinate activities of all the societies.

Mar 26 Evening to honor Pioneer Women to go along with the Echoes of this year.

Apr Louis Clements asked to be Rexburg Centennial Chairman. Historical Society to coordinate all the events.

Apr 12-13 Museum comes to Life

Jun 5 Congressman George Hanson present at Museum for the opening of the Teton Flood Exhibit.

Jun Budget proposed for 1983 is $11,500

Jul 3 Beaver Dick's descendants rode in the parade and then came to the museum to sign copies of their book.

Jul 4 Sunrise service at Tabernacle, chaired by Harold Forbush. Tommy Miyasaki is the speaker.

Jul 16-17 'Footlites' came from Utah to perform as a fund raiser for the Society. Great show.

Jul 17 Harriman Park opens. Our society is helpful in getting the park publicity and ideas for their opening.

Aug 11 Wednesday night work nights begin at museum. All invited to do museum projects to help fill up the space.

Aug 25 DeWayne Wilding honored as historian of the year by the Historical Society.

Sep Monday night openings at the Museum begin with volunteers manning the store every Monday through the year.

Sep 29 Honor Volunteer night. Refreshments and accolades to our very special help who make it so the museum can be open.

Nov 17 Veterans program at the Tabernacle with Harold Forbush as chairman.

Dec 8 Honor Andrew S. Anderson family. He a great role in surveying in the valley.

Dec 31 Attendance for the year was a record 13,448.

1983 Jan 12 Winter Forum under the direction of Harold Forbush was on the subject, "Impact of the 18th Amendment on Rexburg." The preparer was Edna Taylor.

Jan 26 Centennial Community reunion of Lyman, Cedar Point, and Thornton.

Feb 2 Farmers & Merchants Banquet has as speaker, Louis Clements. Subject was Historical Society plans for the Rexburg Centennial.

Feb 23 Centennial Community reunion of Newdale.

1983 Mar 4 Centennial Ball at Ricks College sponsored by Historical Society. Louis Clements, Chairman. A reception line, Grand March, decorations, and refreshments made this the best ball ever held in Rexburg.

Mar 23 Centennial Community reunion in Plano.

Mar 30 The Jerry/Louis show began traveling to groups. Jerry Glenn and Louis Clements put on a program telling of the flood and the restoration of the Tabernacle. They spoke to a variety of different groups over the next few years.

Apr New position of Director of Historical Society created. Louis Clements becomes 1st Director.

Apr 6 Dan Hemsley elected as Chairman/President.

1983 Apr 6 Video machine and large screen TV donated to Historical Society by Mr. and Mrs. Ross Parkinson and Bob Purrington of Rexburg Food Center.

Apr 13 Salem Community reunion of the Rexburg Centennial.

Apr 27 Sugar City Community reunion of the Rexburg Centennial.

May 4 Chamber of Commerce moves into the museum to share operations. Open House for the Chamber held this night at the museum. JoAnn Manwaring to be the Chamber secretary and keep the museum open during the day.

May 11 Teton City Community reunion of the Rexburg Centennial.

June 7 Bringing History alive at the Railroad Ranch. We help organize this history fair at the ranch. We supplied guides and publicity.

Jun Minidoka County Historical Society Museum opens. Our Historical Society was represented at the opening by Louis Clements and Jerry Glenn.

Jun Glass cases placed in front of museum to display souvenirs for sale. Volunteer work done by Blair Manwaring.

Jun Ralph Thompson made and placed a new sign on the northeast corner of the tabernacle lot to show tourists where the museum is located. He also made the signs at the entrance.

Jun Mrs. Elaine (Glenn) Munns donated material and labor to fix drapes for the library. Cleo Johnson donated venetian blinds for the library.

June 28 - July 9 Rexburg musical, "We Can Do It," sponsored by the Historical Society and put on at the Tabernacle. Ten shows that were all sold out. Harold Forbush, Chairman.

Jul 4 Patriotic celebration held at the Tabernacle and sponsored by the Historical Society.

Jul 22 Dave Crowder, speaker at the Centennial of Rexburg program at the Tabernacle. He wrote a book on Rexburg's history and was there to autograph copies.

Jul 17 Harriman State Park living history fair. We send members to serve as guides and help promote.

1983 Jul Budget for 1984 proposed to the county is $14,500.

Aug 10 Field trip to Fort Hall in conjunction with the Bingham County Historical Society.

Aug 13 Buffalo Bar-B-Que sponsored by Historical Society. It was in the parking lot of the Tabernacle and was DeWayne Wilding was the Chairman.

Aug 21 Joint field trip with State Historical Society to Shoup, Idaho. Jerry Glenn, Chairman. Larry Shoup, a grandson, was the official spokesman.

1983 Aug 25 Field trip to Harriman State Park and a joint dinner at Pond's Lodge after. Harriman officials showed us what they were trying to do to preserve the Park (Railroad Ranch.)

Sep 21 Honor volunteer night. Held at the Tabernacle to honor those who had given of their time so that the Museum could be open through the summer.

Sep 24 Field trip to Fort Henry. Chairman, Louis Clements.

Sep 28 Honor Wendell Gillette of Victor, Idaho, as Idaho Historian. He has worked for years as one of our directors and then as the president and main support of the Teton Valley Historical Society.

Oct 19 Clark County Historical Group gives program on preserving photographs. Bonnie Stoddard is speaker.

Oct Purchased a Sharps Copier for $1500 from Montel Spaulding for use in the museum.

Nov 11 Veterans program to honor all veterans held in Tabernacle.

Nov 30 Pioneer family honored this year was the James W. Webster family.

Dec 31 Attendance hits a record of 18,058.

1984 Jan 11 Rexburg Chamber of Commerce Farmers and Merchants Banquet program to review and acknowledge Centennial of Rexburg event of the past year.

Jan 18 Winter Forum. Chairman was Harold Forbush. The subject was agriculture prior to 1910.

Feb 1 Demonstration on using the copy camera for Historical Society Board.

Feb 12 Presidents Day program chaired by Harold Forbush. The program featured stories on the lives of Washington and Lincoln.

Apr 4 Board Meeting with other historical groups of valley to discuss the expenses of the Echoes and how to help. It was decided to raise the price of the subscription to a historical group to ten dollars with more going to the support of the magazine.

Apr Mr. Bagley placed grills on the windows of the library for security.

May 15 Jerry/Louis Show goes to the Blackfoot Museum to show flood and tabernacle slides.

Jun Volunteers for running the museum for the hours of 3-5 will come from the area DUP's. Many thanks to them.

Jul 25 Budget for 1985 proposed to $18,500.

Aug 30 Teton Flood Museum floods from an outside water faucet that was left on. Damage to carpets but not to displays.

Oct 26 Museum comes to life with model railroad featured.

Nov Historical Society assists in the formation of the Sugar Area Historical Society. Dan Hemsley becomes the president of this new group and resigns as president of the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society.

Nov Mel Wilde, as Vice-President, becomes Chairman/President until the April elections.

Dec 31 Attendance for 1984 is 16,708.

1985 Feb 18 Presidents Day program. Chairman, Harold Forbush.

Mar 13 20th Anniversary banquet for Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society. All former presidents reviewed their accomplishments.

Apr Dr. Blair Rich is elected Chairman/President.

Jul 27 Honor Pincock families. Three brothers and sisters prepared the program.

Jul 29 Proposed budget for 1986 is $22,800.

Jul Director Louis Clements tours museums in northern Idaho to find new ways for displays to be arranged.

Aug 10 Field trip from Howe, Idaho to Goldburg and then on over to Mackay. Chairman was Mel Wilde.

Aug Director Clements with help from Hemsley and Fullmer go to Idaho Falls and pick up ancient Indian display for our museum. This display was put together by the Treasure Valley Community College and might be rather permanent in the Teton Flood Museum.

Sep 29 Idaho Travel Council has tour sponsors in Eastern Idaho for tour of potential tourist attractions. Director Louis Clements takes the group on a tour of the Teton Dam and our museum.

Oct 25-26 Director Louis Clements attends preservation workshop on textiles, leathers, and other material in Helena, Montana.

Dec 31 Attendance for the year was 17,562.

1986 May Historical Society sent a vial of Snake River water to Iowa for a mingling of the waters program.

May 30 Historical Society sponsors an evening on Custer. A new book and the author was here to give the program, slides, etc.

Jun 5 We are co-sponsors of the conference of Inter-Mountain Archivists. We discussed the flood at the program.

Jun 6 Flood anniversary meeting. Mayor Porter spoke of his part in the recovery of the city of Rexburg. Dell Klingler talked about the recovery from the county point of view.

Jul 23 Proposed budget for 1987 is $23,000.

Jul Director Louis Clements tours Montana museums and attends a workshop on conservation at Cody, Wyoming.

Sep Snake River Echoes, Star Valley Edition receives the Wyoming Historical Society publication of the year award.

1986 Oct 2 Workshop on photo conservation sponsored by Historical Society and taught by Louis Clements.

Nov Rexburg Chamber of Commerce moves out of museum to new headquarters on main street.

Nov Family Genealogical Research Organization moves into museum and allows greater museum hours. Bonnie Curtis is now keeping the museum open even though she is working for the above group.

Dec 31 Membership in the Historical Society numbers 268.

Dec 30 Attendance for the year is a record 25,924.

1987 Feb 4 Historical Society loose leaf folders are issued to each board member with pertinent information enclosed. These will be issue to each new board member so that they will know what is going on and will have a knowledge of how the society works.

Apr 1 Snake River Echoes changes from a Quarterly to an Annual.

Apr 24 20th year Anniversary dinner for Historical Society. The Purple Sage awards were given to historical groups for their accomplishment. Max Atkinson was the speaker. The thistle award was given to the Union Pacific for the burning of the Sugar City train station.

Jun Decision made to change Echoes from Quarterly to Annual. This year will be the first annual with double the size.

Jul 4 Museum Comes To Life. Kendall Ballard, Chairman.

Jul 22 Mary H. Foote display in Museum for a month. It was so popular we kept it for two months. More people visited in in our museum than any other in the state.

Jul 30 Proposed budget for 1988 is $24,700.

Aug 22 Quincy Jensen is honored as the Idaho historian of the year at the Burton Ward Centennial celebration.

Aug The first annual of the Snake River Echoes featured outlaws and lawmen of Eastern Idaho.

Aug Ancient Indian display opens. We obtained this from Twin Falls Community College.

Sep 26 Field Trip to Camas Meadows with State Historical Society.

1987 Sep First issue of the Teton Flood News is published by the Historical Society. This newspaper contains pictures and articles of the dam breaking and the flood. It was printed compliments of Arnold Press.

Dec 31 Attendance at the Teton Flood Museum is a new record for the past year of 25,984.

1988 Mar 10 Honor Dr. Blair C. Rich as the Idaho Historian of the year and hosted a reception for his 80th birthday. A display was also opened this day showing early dental work.

Mar Historical Society sponsors night of Folk Music in conjunction with the Idaho Centennial.

Apr Theo Fullmer elected Chairman/President. 1988 Apr Thistle award given as the worst effort in preservation. The award was given to the owners of the Jacob Brenner home that was torn down in June.

May 14 Rigby Museum grand opening. Historical Society members have helped this event with ideas and training. Jefferson County Historical Society sponsors.

Jun Louis Clements put on the board of the Idaho Association of Museums to represent the Eastern Idaho area.

Jun President Theo Fullmer built an old fashioned shed outside the Tabernacle to house some of the larger equipment. Wood was donated by the Bevan Lumber company and the city workers assisted him.

Jul Index to Volumes 11-15 of the Snake River Echoes assembled by Louis N. Clements.

Jul 3 "Beaver Dick Days" at the Teton Flood Museum. Beaver Dick's great-grandson, Bill Thompson, and his mother, Edith, were here to ride in the parade and autograph books. They have written, Beaver Dick - The Honor and the Heartbreak. They also spoke at a special program on Beaver Dick.

Jul Errors in the County accounting system causes our budget to be cut back to $3000 from the original $7000. The commissioners promised that this was a one year only cut and that the original budget would be restored the next year.

Jul 17 Field trip to Sam, Idaho, in Teton Valley led by Wendell Gillette.

Jul 16 - 17 Historical Society sponsors "Footlites," an entertainment group from Utah.

Aug Annual Snake River Echoes features education in Eastern Idaho.

Aug 11 Field trip led by Jerry Glenn to Oakley, City of Rocks, and various other points in Southern Idaho. This was a special for the Sons of the Utah Pioneers.

Oct Word received from Arthur Hart of the Idaho State Centennial Committee that the Echoes for this year will be given a $500 grant as a publication of the Centennial.

Dec 31 Record year of attendance at the Teton Flood Museum was 32,376. Seventy percent of those attending were from out of state.

1989 Apr Louis Clements asked to serve as the Madison County Centennial Chairman. He accepts with the understanding that the celebration will be run by the Historical Society.

May Campfire Tales of Eastern Idaho, Volume I is published. Author Louis J. Clements uses Historical Society library as a valuable source of research for this book.

May Louis Clements accepts Chairman of the Madison County Centennial Committee. The Historical Society will play a major part in the Centennial activities.

Jun 6 Society sponsors a fly casting class for Summer visitors. It is taught by Louis Clements in the upstairs of the Tabernacle. Over twenty sunbirds came.

Jul County budget funds are still not restored although they were increased over the past year.

Aug Annual Snake River Echoes features "Women in Idaho's History."

Oct County Centennial Quilt block is designed and sent to Boise for the state Centennial Quilt by Bonnie Curtis.

Nov Howe Historical Society organized under the direction of the Historical Society.

Dec 31 Attendance at the Teton Flood Museum for this year was 27,084.

1990 Jan The Roger and Sybil Ferguson Foundation has awarded the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society a grant of $2500 to be used for display cases, conservation materials, library shelving, and Centennial picture displays.

Jan 8 First day ceremony for cancellation of postmark in Madison County held at Tabernacle. Bonnie Curtis designed the stamp. The program was upstairs conducted by director Louis Clements and the cancellation was in the museum.

Feb 19 Historical Society presents program on Idaho Centennial to the public. Four Ricks College teachers were the speakers. Harold Forbush, Chairman. Program featured presidents who had a bearing on Idaho's history.

Mar Campfire Tales of Eastern Idaho, Volume II is published. The library of the Historical Society was used extensively for the gathering of the material in this book. The author is Louis J. Clements.

Apr 28 Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society. It was a dinner party held at the Ricks College. The program was a review of the events of the society and an honoring of Idaho Historian of the Year, Louis Clements.

May 2 Georgia Ricks elected Chairman/President. Terrel Arnold elected Vice-Chairman/President.

YELLOWSTONE PARK

Rules and Regulations of the Yellowstone National Park - 1910

There were a lot of rules governing the Park even as early as 1910. Many of those listed below have particular interest to the time period in which they were in effect.

1. It is forbidden to remove or injure the sediments or incrustations around the geysers.
2. It is forbidden to ride or drive upon any of the geyser or hot-spring formations, or to turn stock loose to graze in their vicinity.
3. It is forbidden to cut or injure any growing timber.
4. Fires shall be lighted only when necessary, and completely extinguished when no longer required.
5. Hunting or killing, wounding or capturing any bird or wild animal, except dangerous animals when necessary to prevent them from destroying life or inflicting an injury, is prohibited.
6. Fishing with nets, seines, traps, or by the use of drugs or explosives, or in any other way than with hook and line, is prohibited.
7. No person will be permitted to reside permanently or to engage in any business in the park without permission, in writing, from the Department of the Interior.
8. No drinking saloon or barroom will be permitted within the limits of the park.
9. No camp will be made at a less distance than 100 feet from any traveled road. Blankets, clothing, hammocks, or any other article liable to frighten teams must not be hung at a nearer distance than this to the road.
10. The greatest care must be exercised by persons using bicycles. On meeting a team, the rider must stop and stand at the side of the road between the bicycle and the team.
11. All fish less than 6 inches in length should be returned to the water with the least damage possible to the fish. No one person shall catch more than twenty-five fish in one day.
12. Dogs and cats are not permitted in the park.
13. Vehicles, in passing each other, must have full half of the roadway. This applies to freight outfits as well as any other.
14. Racing on the park roads is strictly prohibited.
15. Traveling at night is prohibited except in cases of emergency.

16. Riding at a gait faster than a slow trot on the plateaus near the hotels where tourists and other persons are accustomed to walk is prohibited.

17. Automobiles are not permitted in the park.

18. Persons are not allowed to bathe near any of the regularly traveled roads in the park without suitable bathing clothes.

19. The penalty for disregard of these instructions is summary ejection from the park.

The Superintendent makes his headquarters at Fort Yellowstone at Mammoth Hot Springs. The road through the park is patrolled twice daily by troops from the various stations.

John Colter

The first white man to enter that land of wonders now called the Yellowstone Park was John Colter, who passed through its eastern borders in 1807, where he found a 'tar spring' and the 'Stinking Water.' The tar spring is called 'Colter's Hell' to this day, but the 'Stinking Water' fortunately became the Shoshone River.

Colter was a member of the famous Lewis and Clark Expedition which started from St. Louis in 1804. He continued with them till after they had returned from Oregon as far as Fort Mandan where he applied for and received permission to remain in the country to engage in trapping. This was in August, 1806. He was supplied with ammunition and set out into the wilds while Lewis and Clark returned to St. Louis.

Colter remained in the Montana and Wyoming area until the spring of the following year when he started out alone for St. Louis. He was floating and paddling down the river in a dugout, a canoe hewn from a log. At the mouth of the Platte River he met another expedition bound up from St. Louis for the fur country under a trader named Manuel Lisa.

So fascinated was Colter with his life in the wilderness that it was not a difficult matter for Lisa to persuade Colter to join the expedition. Once again he turned his back upon civilization. On arrival at their destination Colter was sent to notify the Indians, Crows and Blackfeet, of Lisa's coming.

Colter traveled with a company of Crows far into the mountains and along the streams of the headwaters till one day they came upon a band of Blackfeet and, of course, there was a fight in which the Blackfeet were defeated. Colter remained with the Crows as long as he dared and then started out alone to return to Lisa's camp. Colter knew if he went to the camp by the way that he came from it he would meet with the Blackfeet again. So he took another route and in so doing came upon the 'stinking water' and the 'tar spring.' Thus he had discovered Yellowstone Park.

What John Colter discovered remained unexplored for more than half a century. He did not see all of the Park but he was the real discoverer of the region.

Indians of the Park

The Yellowstone Park region was a terra incognita to the Indian tribes living in the country round about, save one tribe. This tribe was a puny people preying on nothing greater than the mountain sheep, their chief article of life. Hence they were called the Sheepeaters. They were a peaceful tribe of small stature, unarmed except for bows and arrows to be used only for procuring food. They chased the sheep into corrals and close places where they could easily dispatch them to the end that they might secure their board and clothes for the men, shirt-waists and skirts for the ladies.

The earlier explorers of the Park found trails evidently Indian, running north and south, east and west. These routes studiously avoided any locallity suggesting a geyser.

The Blackfeet were the warrior tribe of the northwest. As such their reputation was there was no good Blackfeet except the dead ones. They were on the warpath from December to June and June to December against the white man in particular and against the other Indian tribes on general principles. The Crows, the Bannocks, the Shoshones, et al., were enemies all. The Blackfeet lived near the headwaters of the Missouri.

The Crows were more friendly to the whites but could not always be counted upon. They lived in the Big Horn and Yellowstone valleys. They were great lovers of the horse no matter to whom the horse properly belonged. He was such a favorite that the average Crow could not resist the temptation to take him along which he invariably did if the owner was asleep or otherwise not looking.

The Shoshones dwelt in regions south of the Park and east and west of it. They were of an inferior stock and so feared the white man that he was comparatively safe while in their midst.

That all these tribes crossed the present borders of the Park is evidenced by their trails. These trails were little used and probably never used except in cases of necessity.

The Indians knew little of the Park and said less. It was to them a region of burning to be let severely alone and the few that probably did see the geysers and boiling lakes told the others. Most of them felt the area was devoid of the presence of the Great Spirit.

Nomenclature

The names used in Yellowstone Park are never far-fetched, but always appropriate requiring no stretch of the imagination to see the Giant's Face outlined against the sky across the lake, or to discern soft coloring of the Morning Glory; and was anything more faithful to its name than Old Faithful. Prismatic Lake has all the colors of the prism beautifully set forth, and the Emerald Pool is as transparently green as the Jewel itself, and is a joy of the Irish heart always. The first white man that ever saw any part of the Park thought 'Hell' an appropriate appellation for almost anything in that region. Colter's Hell started the fashion, and when that word grew monotonous that

changed off to the devil himself, and his satanic majesty is as often glibly mentioned as is his dwelling place. He has the Den, Kitchen, Workshop, Elbow and Thumb, Punch Bowl and Frying Pan, Stairway and Slide, Inkstand and Well, Arbor and Bath Tub, and so on.

The mountains for the most part are named for the men who have been identified with the explorations of the Park, as also are some creeks, lakes and rivers, while the geysers and some pools, rivers and a few mountains have been named for their various characteristics or form.

Thus, Heart Lake was originally named for Hart Henney, an old trapper. DeLacy Creek was named for the man who was in such a hurry to find gold that he couldn't take time to look at a geyser within a mile of his camp.

Folsom Peak was named for David Folsom, the explorer of 1869. The Washburn party of 1870 left their names to five peaks of the Park, of which Mount Washburn, the most prominent, is named for their leader.

One of the sites named for the characteristics it showed was the Roaring Mountains. The escaping steam from the many fissures on its slopes causes a hissing which in earlier days in the quiet may have almost roared.

Factory Hill is so named on account of the many jets of escaping steam round about. Sepulcher Mountain is named for the tomb like stones that appear on the north side of the peak. Elephant Back, as may be surmised, is from its shape, more or less, depending on the point of view.

Index Peak and Pilot Knob are in the northeast of the Park. Dr. Hayden says the Peak is like a closed hand with the index finger pointing upward. The Knob may be seen from such distances on all sides that it pilots the traveler on his way.

Cinnabar Mountain, near the North Gate, gets its name for the red iron-ore color or cinnabar.

Riddle Lake was so named because the hunters and trappers found it hard to guess in which direction its waters escaped, to the Pacific or Atlantic slope. Solution Creek is the solving of Riddle Lake.

The names go on and on in the wonderland of Yellowstone Park.

Nez Perce Indians in the Park

In the early summer of 1877 several families of whites had been murdered by the Nez Perce Indians in northern Idaho. Three battles were fought between the Indians and the troops under General Howard and General Gibbon as the Indians tried to escape eastward towards the Park.

General Howard came to Henry's Lake early in the morning of August 23rd where he was compelled to stop for rest and supplies. The Nez Perce had just left but it was impossible under the condition of his men and horses to continue the pursuit. Joseph camped that night just inside the Park boundary after having

captured a white man by the name of Shively. They held him as a guide as the Nez Perce were unfamiliar with the country.

On the morning of the 24th of August the Nez Perce came to the Lower Basin and found a party of whites who had been visiting the geysers and were that morning breaking camp to go home to Radersberg, Montana. They were encamped just in the border of the forest west of the Basin when the Indians came upon them as two of the whites were preparing breakfast. Mr. Cowan, the leader of the party, was still asleep in his tent when his wife called him and told of the arrival of the Indians.

Immediately there commenced a parley between Mr. Cowan and an Indian named Charley, who spoke English. Charley said that these were a band of friendly Flat Heads but it was soon discovered that they were the Nez Perce who were known to be on the warpath. Then Charley informed Mr. Cowan that these Indians belonged to Chief Looking Glass' band and that Chief Joseph was "two sleeps in the rear." They said it was not safe for Cowan to remain where he was, or to go on home, as Joseph would surely murder him and his people. It would be best for them all that they go with Looking Glass. This they were forced to do but not without vigorous action on Mr. Cowan's part in the endeavor to protect his property from pillage by the redskins. He was so energetic about it that it nearly cost him his life later in the day.

The teams were hooked up and Mrs. Cowan and the others were in the wagons. Cowan was on horseback beside the wagon and the caravan started out. They had gone only a short distance when they encountered a large band of Indians lined up across the road.

All hope was gone. Here was Joseph himself, painted red. The chief spoke not a word. Charley told Cowan that he and his people were to be taken right along with the Indians and ordered the drivers to move on. Resistance was useless, even if the Cowans had been better armed, and surrounded by their captors they moved nearly two miles up the creek now called Nez Perce. There it was found impossible to take the wagons through the timber. The wheels were destroyed and the provisions taken by the Indians. The unhappy prisoners mounted on their own horses were marched through the wilderness till they came to the foot of Mary Mountain.

A council was held by the chiefs with Poker Joe interpreting for them and Mr. Cowan. Poker Joe said that he had known Mrs. Cowan and her sister in the Helena country. He gave Mr. Cowan the cheerful information that the Indians had lost many warriors, women, and children in the battle of the Big Hole and that his companions were anxious to be avenged. It was not their intention to kill these women or any of the men if they would give up their arms and horses. The Cowans would be given the broken down animals of the Indians and then allowed to go home.

Cowan could do nothing but accept. The Indians took Cowan's horses, arms, and supplies and started on eastward while the Cowans took the trail back. They had hardly gone a mile when Charley, at the head of nearly half a hundred Nez Perce, attacked them. Cowan was shot and the women were taken captive. Cowan

was only wounded and after several days of ordeal was found and restored to good health. His family was united with him shortly after as they had been released unharmed at the Yellowstone River.

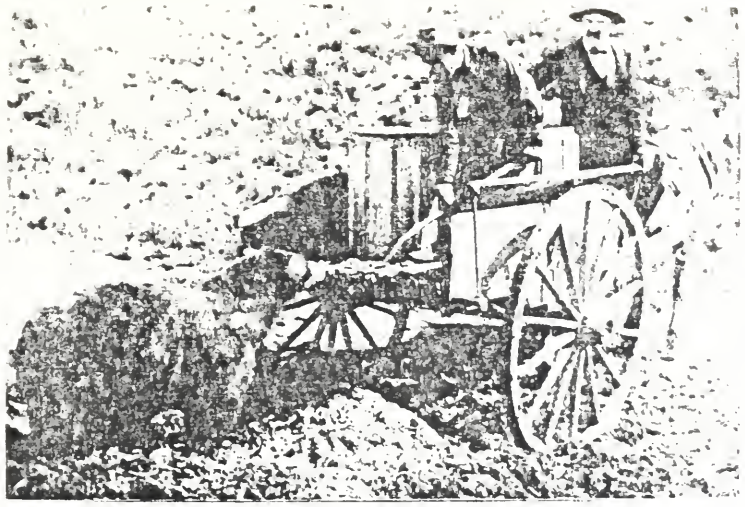
Another party of tourists from Helena were less fortunate. They lost two men killed, one wounded, and one old Negro cook all but scared to death. This party was encamped on the Yellowstone River right in the path of the Nez Perce raiders. When the Indians came upon them, one man was killed and the others fled in the direction of Mammoth Hot Springs. The savages followed them and killed another man.

The old Negro cook, Stone, sought safety in Lieutenant Doane's camp after a bear had chased him from the gulch where he had spent the most of the night up a tree. He prayed to the Lord that the Indians might not find him and they didn't. Afterwards the Lieutenant had to put a guard over him to, in a manner, squelch his loud sounding praises to God for his deliverance so the soldiers could sleep. Old Ben Stone had escaped the Nez Perce and didn't care who knew it.

Yellowstone Park History

The first official Government exploration of the Park region was attempted by Capt. W.F. Raynolds, U.S.A., in 1859, for the double purpose of observing an eclipse of the sun due in that year and the verification of the wonderful stories that had been told. Dr. F.V. Hayden was the geologist of the expedition and Lieutenant Maynardier, second in command, with James Bridger as guide. Practically nothing was accomplished. The snows were so deep that they could not penetrate the passes and after going completely around the Park returned to camp with only the tales of James Bridger and Robert Meldrum to relate. He only saw from a distance what he had heard about. But the map of the country traveled by Captain Raynolds was of value and was published by the Department. A year later commenced the preliminaries of the War between the States and every officer was called to duties other than explorations.

Capt. Walter W. DeLacy came to the park in 1863. The Captain was in a terrible hurry, as many latter day people are. He passed within an hour's walk of Lower Basin, and although he crossed a stream of hot water he did not stop to examine it. He was after gold, and of course, he was in a hurry. This hurry deprived him of the honor of the discovery of the Fire Hole Lake and the Great Fountain Geyser. His report was not published until 1876. It said nothing of the great geysers. One portion of the DeLacy party, not in such a hurry, did find the geyser basins, but little more than the bare mention of the fact is found in the DeLacy report. James Stuart, with a large party, were in the east part of the Park in the Absaroka Mountains after some Indians but added nothing to the history of the Park.



His Dinner A La Carte

These were followed in 1866 by the George Huston party, who visited the geysers, the lake and the river, and discovered Heart Lake. A reporter of the Omaha Herald, who published an account of their travels in his paper, wrote a very interesting story covering almost everything in the Park. Other parties went through the Park in 1867 and wrote wonderful stories for the newspapers.

As the years passed on and the tale of this wonderful region came to the people, every summer saw first one expedition and another start out. For the most part these pioneer explorers took the north side trails but many went via the Madison River. In 1869, David E. Folsom, C.W. Cook and William Peterson went in by way of the Grand Canyon, thence to the Lake, on to Shoshone Lake, then north through the wilderness. They passed by the Upper Basin without seeing it, and came to the Fire Hole Lake and Lower Basin. After a trip to the Excelsior Geyser, within five miles of Old faithful, they turned about and went home.

One of the most important expeditions was that of 1870, when Gen. Henry D. Washburn, Nathaniel P. Langsford, and others went to the Park with orders to go to the 'falls and rivers of the Yellowstone,' with no mention whatever of hot springs or geysers. There seems to have been some doubt in the mind of the commandant and of the explorers themselves of the existence of any such phenomena.

This party entered the Park at the junction of the Gardiner and Yellowstone rivers. They were, at the moment of starting out, within five miles of one of the chief attractions of the Yellowstone Park. This was the great terraces of Mammoth Hot Springs. They missed seeing them. Their route was up the Yellowstone Valley to Tower Falls, where they encountered the first hot springs. They went over to the east side of Mount Washburn. Ascending to the summit they saw in the vast panorama spread out before them, all and more than they had expected. They had their first view of Grand Canon and saw the vapor from the geysers rising above the trees. From their vantage point on the summit of this grand mountain, yet unnamed, but to be named for their leader, Washburn, they could see the Grand Canyon. They could see the Yellowstone River and Lake that they came to see and the geysers that they really had not expected to see.

The Mud Volcano and the Ink Stand were in active eruption in those days and they could hear the roaring and hissing sounds that heretofore they had only heard about.

The following day they reached the cliffs of the Grand Canyon and had their first view of all its grandeur and beauty. Lieutenant Doane gave vent to his enthusiasm in a remark oft repeated in a slightly varying vernacular by the traveler of today when he has his first view of the Park: "I have my money's worth now."

The Washburn travelers spent some days in and about the Canyon for some of them descended from the brink to the river. The height of the Falls was measured. Thence they proceeded up the west side of the Yellowstone River, saw the Mud Volcano and Sulphur Mountain, and came to camp on the shores of Lake Yellowstone. It is impossible here to record their exclamations of surprise and wonder.

The river was forded and the expedition continued up the east shore of the Lake. Lieutenant Doane and Mr. Langsford climbed to the summit of the Absaroka Range being in all probability the first white men to perform this very difficult feat. Very properly two of the loftiest peaks now bear their names. After the expedition had reached the Upper Yellowstone River, south of the Lake, Mr. Everts became lost in the almost impenetrable wilderness. For thirty-seven days he wandered, not aimlessly, but helplessly, about till he was found near the mountain that bears his name, opposite Mammoth Hot Springs, in an almost dead condition.

After Mr. Everts became separated from his companions, the first day his horse became frightened and ran away with all his arms and accoutrements. The rider was left without the means of defense or the wherewithal to procure food. Being very nearsighted it was with the greatest difficulty that he could find his way anywhere. When he started out he went in the opposite direction from which he should have gone and wandered south as far as Heart Lake in the Snake River country. Remaining there several days, he slept near the geysers at night to keep warm and during the day climbed the surrounding peaks in the endeavor to find his bearings.

In constant fear of attack by Indians or wild animals his situation was pitifully discouraging. He was compelled to remain in a tree almost all of one night by a mountain lion. After this experience he gathered a supply of thistleroots, his only food. He boiled them in the hot waters and started on his almost hopeless wanderings to find his way out. This time he set his face to the north and came to the southwest shore of Lake Yellowstone. He followed the lake and the river finally coming to the camp that his party had left more than three weeks before. All through his tramp he had carried burning sticks in his hand as he had up to this time never thought of starting fire from the heat of the sun's rays through the lenses of the field glasses which he still had with him. There was game all about him but his pistols were lost with his horse and his supply of thistle-roots became exhausted. He caught some small fish and two snow-birds to help out his precarious larder but he was twice

nearly a week without food and once he was three days on the mountainside where he could get no water.

His sufferings are unprintable. He was starving and well-nigh perishing from the cold.

He was found near Yancey's by Jack Baronett and George Pritchett on the great plateau near the mouth of the Gardiner River and near to the mountain which bears his name. This mountain is east of and seen from Mammoth Hot Springs. Baronett raised a mound of stones to mark the spot where Mr. Everts was found and then carried the exhausted and all but dead man in his arms to camp. The next day they took him to the camp at the junction of the Gardiner and Yellowstone rivers where they had first came into the Park.

Mr. Washburn, Lieutenant Doane and the others scoured the forests for a week in search of the missing man. Then believing him dead or that he had taken the back trail, took up their own perilous march in a homeward direction by what they thought would be the shortest route, thinking they had seen it all. It was home they were making for little dreaming of the wonders in store for them.

They left the Yellowstone Lake behind them and were going west by north. They traveled nearly on the route of the present Circuit Road but in an opposite direction from the way the stages go. They crossed the Divide twice as the road does and caught a glimpse of Shoshone Lake as we do from Shoshone Point on the road..

On the morning of the 18th of September, 1870, they came to the Fire Hole River, traveled down that stream, passed Kepler Cascade, and about noon emerged from the forest into the dreary waste of a treeless plain and, behold! There in front of them not a hundred yards away a magnificent fountain was throwing its crystalline waters up to the blue sky, it seemed to them, and vast clouds of snowy vapor rolled away in the sunlight of that September day.

It was Old Faithful! Old Faithful in action!

In action every hour of that day, as Old Faithful has been in action every hour of every day and of every night since that day, and is in action every hour of today.

Now these intrepid explorers, were they content and would they hurry on their way? No. They stayed at the Upper Basin all that day and the next and saw seven of the greatest geysers of the world in eruption and gave them the names which they bear to this day.

The night after this eventful day so fraught with interest to all the world. These travelers of the wilderness sat themselves down around a campfire burning on the banks of the Madison River near the junction of the Fire Hole and the Gibbon and as they talked of the perils passed, and of the wonders the world knew so little of, but soon would know, their words turned to what might be when this region should be in communication with civilization. These were business men, besides being explorers, and the business idea prevailed with all save one, and that was to take up the lands around the points of interest and arrange

for the shekels that would pour in when the sightseers should come.

Then up spoke Cornelius Hedges, to say, No! This land must be "For the benefit and enjoyment of the people," and on that night, the night of the 19th of September, 1870, the Yellowstone Park was born.

Greatly to their credit the others all agreed with the "Park" idea and no more thought was expressed as to private enterprise, but they, every one of them, went home wedded to the promotion of a public park.

Engineer Capt. W.A. Jones was the first to attempt an entrance from the east side, and he was the first to cross the Absaroka Range. With Captain Jones was Prof. Theodore B. Comstock, a noted geologist. Their route carried them over the much talked of Two Ocean Pass and their report verified its existence and that of Pacific and Atlantic Creeks.

Another engineer followed in 1875, Capt. William Ludlow, who had with him George Bird Grinnell. From this expedition we have the first accurate measurements of the Falls of the Yellowstone. Also in 1875 came Secretary of War Belknap and party under the guidance of Lieutenant Doane.

Two years later, in 1877, Gen. W.T. Sherman and staff visited the Park, official report of which was made by staff officer, Col. O.M. Poe. But the most interesting chapter of 1877 was the pursuit of Chief Joseph and his band of Nez Perce warriors by Gen. O.O. Howard and the capture by the Nez Perce at the Lower Basin of a party of tourists from Radersberg, Montana. In that year the Indians all over the Northwest were for the most part, on the warpath. It was only the year previous that the gallant Custer and his brave followers were cruelly massacred not very far away, and while there was no actual outbreak among them, near the Park was a feeling of unrest. The story of the Nez Perce is told in the prior part of this chapter.

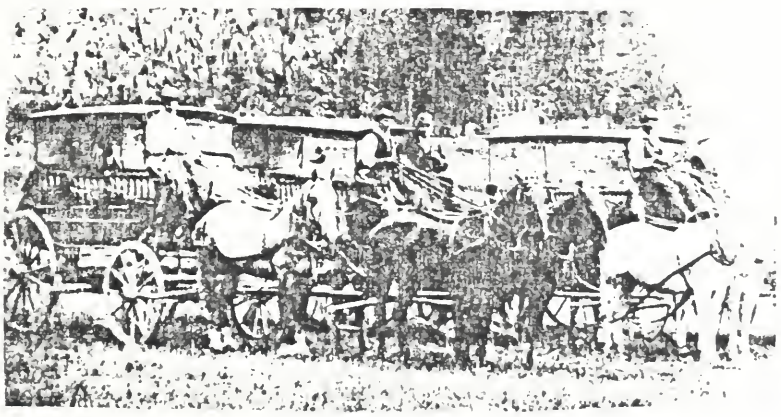
In 1877 as the successor of Mr. Langsford as Superintendent of the Park came Mr. Philetus W. Norris of Michigan, and whatever else he may have done for the Park in his five years of incumbency, he succeeded in naming more places, basins, geysers, peaks, etc., than any other man that was ever in the Park before or since. When he could think of no other name for anything he would just call it Norris and let it go at that. But while he was naming things he did not forget his friends or their families. He had them all remembered by something in the Park as long as the peaks, creeks, geysers, etc., held out. But he was enthusiastic and energetic and did much good work in laying out and building roads, writing, and in a general way promoting the interests of the Park.

Mr. Norris was succeeded in 1882 by P.H. Conger of Iowa, who provided a very unsatisfactory administration in every way. As for instance the formation of the Yellowstone Park Improvement Company and the leases of large tracts of land covering the most attractive features of the Park, all of which came up under the Conger regime. He resigned in 1884.

From 1877 many distinguished men visited the Park. In 1880 came the Hon. Carl Schurz, Secretary of the Interior, accompanied

by General Crook, under a formidable escort of officers and soldiers. In 1881, Governor John W. Hoyt of Wyoming and his escort under Major Julius W. Mason visited the Park.

But in 1883 the influx of distinguished travelers reached a climax. In that year came the President of the United States, the Secretary of War, the Lieutenant-General of the Army, Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, United States Senators, Foreign Ministers from Germany and England, Members of Parliament, President of the Admiralty, together with a large number of prominent officers of the United States Army and distinguished civilians, not to omit the famous photographer, F. Jay Haynes. He was with the Presidential party and his photographs were an important feature in the subsequent reports.



Yellowstone Park

President Arthur's caravan was an imposing one. Everybody was on horseback and the escort was a full troop of cavalry. The pack-train was the most complete that ever took the road anywhere. The route covered nearly four hundred miles. Couriers were stationed at intervals of twenty miles with relays that the President might remain in quick communication with all parts of the country even though he was in the wilderness and three thousand miles from the capital.

It was altogether the most imposing and important expedition that had ever visited the Yellowstone Park.

Commencing August 20, 1886 the Yellowstone Park was placed under the direct supervision of a military officer although the Interior Department at Washington was in control and on that date Capt. Moses Harris, First U. S. Cavalry, was made Superintendent with a garrison of sufficient size to enforce the laws, rules and regulations. The military regime has proven itself satisfactory to all concerned and to the people.

The Yellowstone Park Improvement Company had commenced building the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel in 1884 but failed in 1885 before the hotel was completed. It was bought out by the Yellowstone Park Association which at that time was backed by the Northern Pacific Railway and the Mammoth Hotel was finished to completion, followed in rapid succession by hotels at Norris, Lower Basin, Upper Basin, Lake and Canyon.

Now the Yellowstone Park was really open for business and the Northern Pacific Railway commenced selling through tickets to Cinnabar.

In 1887, Lieut. Frederick Schwatka of Arctic celebrity came to the Yellowstone Park with the intention of making a tour of the Park in winter. Schwatka had made a name for himself in the far north, and brought with him his tested and tried paraphernalia for travel over the snow, but he did not succeed in getting through the Park as he was taken ill after three days' tramp to Norris and was compelled to give up. But Mr. F. Jay Haynes and others of the expedition continued their perilous journey and with Ed Wilson, a Government scout, visited the Upper and Lower Basins, the Grand Canyon, the Falls, and after passing over Mount Washburn, returned via Yancey's to Mammoth.

They started out with toboggans, skis, snowshoes, sleeping bags, etc. The toboggans were abandoned at Norris and the men took their supplies, cameras, and sleeping bags on their backs and trudged along till they had covered nearly two hundred miles of snow hidden wilderness.

By this time transportation facilities in the Park had greatly improved. Wakefield had established a line of Concord coaches in 1884 which was taken over by the Yellowstone Park Transportation Company in 1891. At that time it was under the management of that noted pioneer in the stage business in Montana, Silas S. Huntley.

Huntley had laid the foundation of the finest and best equipped stage lines in the world. He lived a life of genial good fellowship, of business integrity until the day of his death in 1901. He was loved and respected by all who knew him.

E.C. Waters had made steam navigation on the Yellowstone lake possible by launching in its waters the steamer Zillah and in 1891 the first party of tourists under escort of Raymond and Whitcomb had been taken over the Circuit Road. Wylie had in 1890 established his 'permanent camps' and the Park was indeed on the road to prosperity. It was not till 1894 that the necessary laws were enacted for the complete protection by the passage of a bill introduced in Congress by Senator Vest of Missouri, which bill did and does protect the park, the animals that live therein, and from all encroachments by man from without.

An incident of the year 1894 is worth relating. It was the second winter expedition of the Park regions. It was the first winter trip for all except Jay Haynes, who had made the winter trip in 1887. The personnel of the second winter trip of the Park were Captain Scott, Lieutenant Forsyth, Burgess the scout, Sergeant Troike, Burnse, F. Jay Haynes and two non-commissioned officers. They traveled on snowshoes, each carrying his own equipment. Haynes traveled with his camera that did so much to promote the Park.

The quest of the expedition was to look after the buffalo then in Hayden Valley, and Ed Howell, a notorious poacher, who was reported as committing depredations there.

The party went to Norris, east to Hayden Valley, and thence to the Lake, where they found the camp of the poacher, Ed Howell, his fire still burning. They concluded that he was not far away,

and started out to find him. Six buffalo heads were found suspended from trees at the camp. After tramping through the snow some hours, firing was heard and in an hour the poacher was sighted. Burgess and Troike arrested him, but not until he had killed six more buffalo. That made twelve that had fallen by his murderous, merciless hand.

Howell was taken to the Lake Hotel, thence to the guardhouse at Fort Yellowstone, where he was properly punished. Thus were the buffalo being rapidly exterminated till there are now less than a hundred in the Park herd, the remnant being quartered in the Lamar Valley where thy have every care and attention.

Within the next few years from 1895 the improvements in the Park and travel thereto steadily progressed. The Pullman Company established the through sleeping car line from St. Paul to the Park on June the second of that year.

In 1896 'Uncle Tom' rigged up his rope ferry over the Yellowstone River above the Falls and his ladders to the river bed below the Great Falls. The bridge over the Yellowstone below the outlet was opened for traffic via the Cody Road in 1898 and in 1899 the Monida Line via Dwelle's and the West Gate was opened. In that year the Fountain Geyser changed its base of operations from the pool where it had played before to the adjoining one.

In 1900 tents were put up at the Upper Basin for the accommodation of tourists, who, until that year, had to return to the Fountain Hotel for lodging. These tents were the predecessor of Old Faithful Inn.

President Roosevelt came to the Yellowstone Park in April of 1903. The President really preferred horseback and sleigh riding to a stage any day so April was just as good as July for him. Mr. Roosevelt was accompanied by the noted naturalist, John Burroughs. They arrived on the 8th of April and left on the 24th. On that date the President assisted at the laying of the corner-stone of the decorative arch at the North Gate at Gardiner.

In this year the Northern Pacific Railway completed their very beautiful station at Gardiner, built in the Old Faithful style of architecture. They abandoned the terminal of the Livingston Park Branch at Cinnabar and moved up to Gardiner depositing passengers right at the boundary of the Park.

The bridge over the Yellowstone River above the rapids, at the Upper Falls, and the road to Artist's Point, enabled tourists to visit the south side of the Grand Canyon. The bridge and road were completed in 1904.

This was a great year from a hotel point of view. Old Faithful Inn opened its doors and there was an extension completed at the Lake Hotel. The addition of its three splendid porticos rendered it worthy of a better name, the Colonial.

The most important event of 1907 and 1908 was the completion of the Oregon Short Line to Yellowstone Station at the West Gate with stage connection via the M-Y Line.

IDAHO
1890 - 1990

The communities listed above are in general direction from Rexburg but because of space limitations are distorted in their placement in Idaho